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THE TIMES OF INDIA

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India captain Harmanpreet Kaur becomes first player across women's and men's international cricket to play 200 T20Is. She achieves feat during WC clash against South Africa, who win by 6 wickets, P 16

Teenage superstar **Lamine Yamal** scores 10 mins into his first start in a WC match, inspires **Spain's 4-0 demolition of Saudi Arabia.** Earlier, Curacao goalie Eloy Room made 15 saves as the tiny nation **held Ecuador to a 0-0 draw,** P 15

Teen sensation **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi smashes a 29-ball 94, setting a List A record for fastest 50 in 11 balls,** as India A thrash Sri Lanka A by 66 runs to clinch the **Team Tri-Series title,** P 16

Virat Kohli returns to India's ODI setup while all-rounder Hardik Pandya is the notable absentee as BCCI announces a 15-member squad for upcoming 3-match ODI series against England, starting July 16, P 16

IANS

Army's 'Siachen Sniffers' and their handlers celebrate International Yoga Day amid sub-zero conditions at Siachen glacier on Sunday | P 4, 8

IITs want JEE ranks kept out of resumes

All IITs Placement Committee has directed students to erase entrance exam credentials like JEE ranks and GATE scores from resumes. It follows concerns that recruiters may infer whether a student belongs to the general or reserved category through ranks. P 6

HC nixes MBBS bond over job offer delay

Chhattisgarh HC has ruled that compulsory service bonds for MBBS students stand automatically cancelled if the state fails to issue appointment orders within the statutory period prescribed under the state's medical admission rules. Page Opp

Salgaocar Group co assets attached

Enforcement Directorate on Sunday provisionally attached movable and immovable assets worth Rs 1,023.9 crore of AVS Group, part of Salgaocar Group, in connection with alleged illegal iron ore mining in Goa involving Rs 2,493 crore. P 8

20L+ sighs of relief after smooth NEET-UG retest

Edu Minister Monitors Exam From NTA HQ

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New Delhi: National Testing Agency (NTA) and education ministry kept their fingers crossed until the final answer sheets of India's largest entrance exam NEET-UG were sealed on Sunday, bringing to a close a high-stakes retest conducted under the shadow of the May 3 paper leak.

Organised in 37 days, far short of the four-six months the exercise would ordinarily require, the retest for admissions to under-graduate medical courses passed off without any reported breach or major disruption — a relief to the agency and education minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who have come under fire since the scrapping of the exam. NTA has called the retest "a fair chance, a fresh start".

Pradhan monitored the conduct of the test — taken by over 20 lakh candidates at 5,440 centres in India and 14 abroad — from NTA headquarters in Okhla till it ended, for any fresh lapse on Sunday would have intensified the credibility crisis surrounding the exam. He reviewed feeds from command-and-control centres and called up exam centres too.

FULL COVERAGE: P4, 10, EDIT

▶'Biology was easy', P 10

ACCIDENT VICTIM TURNS UP FOR TEST

Photo: Anindya Chattopadhyay

A NEET examinee takes off her earring outside a centre in Delhi

- **Modi waits at IGI** after landing from Kol at 1.15pm, leaves for residence after 2pm to **ensure examinees are not hassled** | P 10
- Ribs fractured in accident, Shrishti Dubey writes exam in **spl room, with O_2 support** | P 10
- **Candidate in burqa allowed** into centre after dad cites NTA rule on traditional dress | P 10
- **VPN downloads surge after Telegram ban** – up 76% on June 17 over last week's avg | P 6

PM commissions 2 new warships, survey vessel

PTI

Kolkata/New Delhi: PM Modi Sunday commissioned two indigenous frontline warships — advanced stealth frigate INS Dunagiri and anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft INS Agray — and survey vessel INS Sanshodhak into the Navy in Kolkata, **report Rohit Khanna & Surendra Singh.**

The country "doesn't want to remain a mere purchaser in defence" and was building its manufacturing capabilities, he said. "The day India becomes a nirmata (creator), it will also become a nirnayak (decider)."

▶Maritime prowess, P 13

2 die, 62 fall ill after ammonia leak at seafood firm in TN

Toll May Rise as Several in Hosp Are On Ventilators

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Chennai: At least two people were killed and 62 others fell ill after an ammonia leak at a seafood export firm at Kannigaipair near Periyapalayam in Tiruvallur district on Sunday morning. The death toll is expected to go up as several of those in hospital are on ventilators.

The leak occurred at the unit's ammonia plant, about 50m from the workers' accommodation on the factory premises. As it was Sunday, the workers were in their rooms when the gas spread through the area, causing breathing difficulties and discomfort. A few passersby heard the commotion and cries of the workers and alerted police.

The main ammonia storage facility was located on the ground floor and the leak was suspected to be from a nozzle on a pipeline carrying the gas to the first floor.

PTI

NDRF personnel assess ammonia levels at the seafood export unit in Thiruvallur on Sunday

▶Leak didn't spread, P 13

US-Iran talks start amid fresh Trump threats

The US-Iran talks began in Switzerland on Sunday amid a tentative 60-day truce in West Asia even as US President Trump launched a tirade against Tehran if it once again closed the Strait of Hormuz. "You close it and you won't have a country…you won't even make it back to your f***ing country," Trump told Fox News.

US vice-president JD Vance and negotiators met Iran's parliamentary speaker, Mohd Bagher Qalibaf, and foreign minister Abbas Araghchi at a Swiss resort. Vance said there was an opportunity to "turn over a new leaf" with Iran as the sides held 80-minute talks. Pakistan's PM Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asif Munir, and Qatari officials were present as mediators. P 14

▶2 important people in my life: Indian & Pakistani, my wife & Munir: Vance, P 14

Karnataka among top 2 states in shielding families from med bills

Chethan Kumar & Vindhya Pabolu | TNN

Bengaluru: In a country where a serious illness can wipe out years of household savings, Karnataka has quietly emerged as one of India's better-performing states in protecting families from medical expenses. According to the latest National Health Accounts (NHA) estimates released last week, out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) for 2022-23 accounts for 29.2% of Karnataka's total health expenditure (THE), well below the national average of 43.4%.

Among the 21 states for which the report publishes state-level indicators, only Uttarakhand (28.8%) and Jammu & Kashmir (29.7%) report a comparable or lower out-of-pocket share, placing Karnataka among the best-performing states in limiting the direct burden of healthcare costs on households.

▶Spends ₹7k/person, P 5

OUT-OF-POCKET SPEND STINGS LESS

TOP STATES

Out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) as % of total health expenditure (THE)

Karnataka Vs India

Indicator	Karnataka	India
Per-capita THE	₹7,024	₹6,373
Per-capita OOPE	₹2,049	₹2,767
OOPE share of THE	29.2%	43.4%
Govt share of THE	33.2%	48%
Health spend as a % Of GSDP/GDP	0.7%	1.5%

Source: National Health Account Report 2026

POWER PLAY

- **AICC president Mallikarjuna Kharge loses cool over pro-DKS chants at an event, calls workers 'useless fellows',** affirms no personality cult in Congress
- CM says he's making way for **50,000 more posts for Congress workers on guarantee panels**
- **New KPCC chief seeks changes to composition of boards and corporations.** Karnataka has 90 corporations and boards with 1,118 posts of chairpersons and members
- BJP state chief plans **'truth test' before Lord Manjunatha to identify MLAs who cross-voted,** party legislators voice objection
- **RSS joint general secretary Mukunda CR flags 'demographic imbalance',** cites falling fertility, ageing, religious conversion & infiltration as reasons P 5

'Functional urban': Govt may create new category

New Delhi: With villages around cities and towns acquiring urban characteristics — more built-up area, less dependence on agriculture for livelihood and more facilities like high-speed transport network — govt is looking at creating a new category — 'functional urban settlements' — in addition to the existing 'rural' and 'urban' classifications, **reports Dipak Dash.**

An estimate based on the UN's Degree of Urbanisation framework suggests that nearly 84% of India's population resided in urban settlements in 2025, much higher than govt's estimate of 36%. This is because at present, the framework of urbanisation falls under two categories — Census Towns (over 5,000 population) and Statutory Towns (with municipal entities).

▶'Urban' villages, P 13

'URBANISATION RISING'

- **Several villages** near urban areas in Haryana, UP, MP **have 'urban' features**
- As per a govt study, new framework would accurately **capture India's rapidly evolving urban landscape**
- Ministry official says extent of actual urbanisation higher than what's recorded

CCPA: Don't use 100% on food labels loosely

100% is a precise and absolute numerical expression and cannot be used loosely, approximately or as a tag for marketing," Central Consumer Protection Authority said in a recent case, holding Storia Foods and Beverages, and Bectors Food Specialities (English Oven) liable for misleading ads and unfair trade practices. A penalty of Rs 1 lakh each was imposed.

Storia advertised its product as "100% tender coconut water" while it had other ingredients. Bectors said its bread was 100% whole wheat atta when it was 87%. P 6

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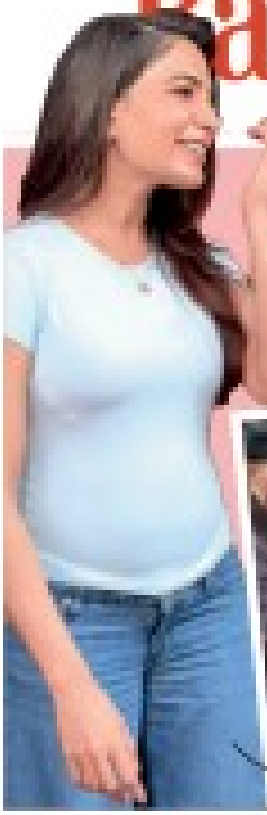
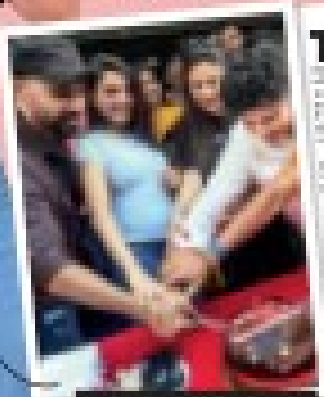
Bangalore Times

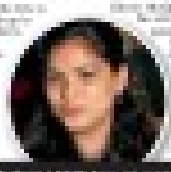


A NEW BEGINNING:

BABY ON THE WAY FOR SAM & RAJ



Stress around upcoming film release led Vinod Prabhakar to seek timely medical care, says wife



Buzzstop

BTY BAN TURNS GLOBAL AMBASSADOR OF NATIONAL MUSEUM OF KOREA

Darshan joins fellow inmates for Yoga Day session in prison

RAM CHARAN, UPASANA REVEAL DAUGHTER KLIN KAARA'S FACE

Third time lucky? Toxic locks release date in August

THE TIMES OF INDIA
Education TIMES
www.mbauniverse.com
THE PATH TO EXCELLENCE

In an age where technology is rewriting job descriptions faster than universities can update curricula, the pressure on students to future-proof themselves has never been greater

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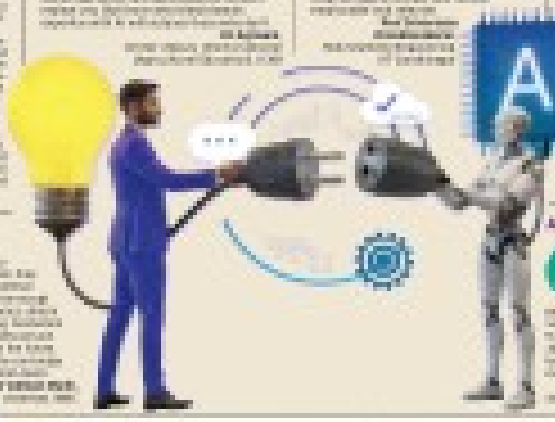
Literacy Needs Thrive

Adaptive Leadership



B'luru schools to link mobility assist benefits with attendance

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Community support networks are lifelines for single women navigating adoption

It takes a village to raise an ADOPTED CHILD

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Malini Parmar, 56, an adoptive parent from Sarjapur Road, was briefly at a loss for words when a child she met at a bus stop told her, "Aunty, your daughter says she has two moms." After a moment, she replied, "Yes. She has a tummy mummy and a heart mummy."

Parmar, a former IT professional and co-founder of stonesoup.in, a social enterprise, first considered adoption after watching *Boys Town*, the Oscar-winning film about Father Edward J Flanagan and the village he created for orphaned and abandoned boys. Later, she saw an interview in which Sushmita Sen spoke about her daughter being "born from her heart." Parmar, originally from Himachal Pradesh, recalls telling her sister, "This is how I want to build my family."

Her daughters, Tara and Lila, are biological siblings from Odisha. Parmar spent years learning about adoption before going ahead in 2008, when she was 36. "However, when I brought my girls home, I realised I didn't know anything about parenting. The elder one was four-and-a-half and the younger just two-and-a-half. I had to feed my babies and get them to sleep - it was not easy. You can't raise a kid alone," she says, adding that she managed with steady help from an adoptive-parent community.

On hard days, she turns to Single AP and PAP, a WhatsApp group for single and prospective adoptive parents, which helps her stay grounded while dealing with practical and emotional demands of solo parenting.

Originally named Kuni and Gudly, she gave her daughters formal names, Tara and Lila, after a friend mentioned that children in Odisha often have both a pet name and a formal name. Today, Tara studies psychology and theatre at St Joseph's University, Bengaluru, while Lila is interested in filmmaking.

Hita Hejmadi, who adopted Iva eight years ago from Lucknow, says she unapologetically owns her choice

Across Bengaluru, solo adoptive parents are drawing confidence from active networks that function like extended families. These communities offer guidance on everyday challenges, emotional reassurance, and shared learning about raising adopted children, helping both mothers and children feel connected through common experiences.

Hita Hejmadi, an adoptive parent, is part of groups including Joy of Adoption and Bangalore Single AP and PAP. She notes that there are also city-based circles such as Heart Babies Play Date, which arrange meet-ups for adoptive families. "Sometimes, they help you turn your low moments into fun stories, besides providing social and psychological support."

Hands-on Lessons In Parenting

Madhumitha Venkataraman joined several parenting and adoption groups while considering adoption, and during the three-and-a-half-year wait for her child. She is part of Joy of Adoption (a support group for prospective adoptive parents, adoptive families and adult adoptees) and Families of Joy (an NGO that connects doctors, lawyers, and families involved in adoption).

Venkataraman, a senior HR professional, is a single adoptive parent to her three-year-old son, Anurag. She lives with her mother and has never married. She is also a person with disability — left hemiparesis affecting the left side of her body — which, she says, makes her adoption journey somewhat different.

Once her child came home, these communities continued to be a support system in day-to-day ways: how to deal with early illnesses, where to find suitable paediatricians, and how to talk to her son about not having a father, as well as about her disability.

As Anurag grows, questions about his origin are starting to emerge. Venkataraman tells him that he is her "heart baby," a child born from her heart. She believes there is no right time to share details about adoption and wants Anurag to grow up owning his story, just as she owns hers.

Overcoming Cultural Barriers

When three-year-old Ameya from Mumbai came to Suja's home in Electronics City, Bengaluru, in 2007, communication was initially a challenge. "Ameya spoke Marathi and I couldn't talk to her," recalls Suja, adding that she tried to bridge the gap using broken Hindi. For the first week, Ameya was largely quiet as she adapted to her new environment.

Soon after, Suja introduced Ameya to their neighbour Renjit's family. "Renjit's wife, Renji, could speak Marathi. She was able to communicate with Ameya and understand her needs. Ameya also became friends with their children, and started playing with them," says Suja. Ameya now calls Renjit 'Daddy' and Renji "Aayi".

"She considers their children her siblings," adds Suja, who initially faced family disapproval over her decision to adopt. However, spending time with Ameya changed their views, including her mother's, and they grew to love her.

During the adoption process, Suja received support from Bengaluru organisations such as Sudatta, along with groups focused on single parents. "Back then, Sudatta would host quarterly events - sports days, get-togethers and picnics. It also organised sharing sessions where parents discussed their struggles. A three-day annual conference at a resort was another much-anticipated event, with separate programmes for children. Prospective parents could also attend these paid events to observe and interact with the children," she explains, adding that Ameya formed close friendships there. "Moreover, it helped her realise there are many children like her."

Adopted children may be at an increased risk of learning difficulties like dyslexia and dyscalculia, often linked to early life factors such as substance abuse exposure. Being part of a supportive community equips adoptive parents with resources and guidance to address these challenges effectively, says Suja.

Now 22, Ameya studies design at RV University and is an intern at Biocon Foundation. She is thriving despite learning difficulties, inspiring others through her story, positivity, and resilience.

BRINGING SUNSHINE INTO EACH OTHER'S LIVES: Suja's daughter Ameya brings her a lot of joy. Her story inspired many of her ex-colleagues at Infosys to adopt, and many named their daughters Ameya. Sudatta, a community of adoptive and pre-adoptive parents, made life easier for Suja as she embarked on her adoption journey

> Adoptive parents' communities helped me understand the adoption process — from documentation to court procedures, timelines, and waiting list updates - and reassured my family, especially since single, never-married adoption is not very common in India, by connecting them with other adoptive families. Meet-ups and playdates do happen, though they are often informal and ad hoc.
>
> **Madhumitha Venkataraman** | ADOPTIVE PARENT AND MEMBER OF JOY OF ADOPTION, A SUPPORT GROUP, AND FAMILIES OF JOY, AN NGO

Mala (third from left) with Vivek, Sharan, Vijay, Deepa and Arati (L to R)

Rich and flavourful Trifle Pudding

Mala Makhija

Trifle Pudding brings back many memories of our joint family. I would involve my little son Sharan, my nieces Arati, Deepa and my nephew Vivek in preparing ingredients. They would go to the bakery to buy the cake, purchase canned and fresh fruits, grate the chocolate, and make the jelly and custard.

It used to be a grand family project, and we had a lot of fun in the process.

INGREDIENTS

- Sponge cake - 500gms
- Sugar water with orange juice-1 cup to soak the cake
- Jelly Powder - raspberry flavour 1 pkt
- Custard Powder - vanilla flavour 1pkt
- Whipped Cream - 250/300 ml
- Milk - 500ml for custard
- Sugar-2 tbsp - for custard and whipped cream.
- Assorted fresh fruits- (strawberries, cherry, grapes, kiwi, peach etc)
- Dry fruits(pista and almonds)-250 gm
- Dark Chocolate-100 gm (flakes or finely grated)

PREPARATION

Make the Jelly as instructed in the packet and let it rest in the refrigerator till perfectly set (4 to 5 hours). Make the custard also as instructed with a thick consistency. Whip the cream till light and fluffy. Chop all the fruits, dry fruits and chocolate.

METHOD OF LAYERING

In a large glass bowl, assemble the ingredients in layers. Place the sponge cake in the bowl and soak it with the sugar water & a little orange juice.

Cut the set jelly in random cubes and place it on the cake. Mix the chopped fruits and place it on the jelly. Pour the custard over the fruits to cover them. Depending on the depth of the bowl, these steps can be repeated. Finally, add whipped cream just enough to cover the bowl. Garnish - add berries & fruits, dry fruits and grated chocolate as per choice. Cover the bowl with a cling film and refrigerate for two to three hours before serving.

Mala is an entrepreneur. She lives at Palace Garden Apartments in Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru

TIMES CITY

Life-saving efforts during pandemic turn into tax nightmare for activist

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Bengaluru: What was planned as a noble act to save innocent lives has ended up costing a city-based activist Rs 35 lakh in customs duty.

It was on March 5, 2026 that activist Vinay Kumar received a shocking notice from the customs seeking Rs 35 lakh in import duty. The cost was slapped on him almost five years after his life-saving intervention by procuring 700 oxygen concentrators during the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Vinay, a resident of Rajajinagar, was working in the healthcare sector as a consultant in 2021 when he noticed a critical oxygen crisis in the city. Through a city-based NGO, he received donations from expatriates and crowdfunding, and the consignments subsequently arrived in Bengaluru from Germany and the US.

Once the concentrators reached the city via air, they were cleared by Bengaluru customs and made ready for distribution. With the help of several organisations, Vinay floated a helpline number through which the devices were distributed free of cost to those in need.

However, according to the customs notice, during the course of post-clearance audit, it was flagged that as per the first schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, all dutiable goods imported for personal use were required to be classified under the Customs Tariff Heading (CTH) 9804.

"During that time, there was an acute shortage of oxygen, not just in Bengaluru but across the country. We had supplied these concentrators to the northern states as well as remote parts of Karnataka," Vinay told **TOI**, adding that there was no personal motive behind this act and that he has been involved in social work for a long time. "And even if these were for personal use, govt had waived duty on oxygen concentrators during that time."

In April 2021, the Union govt had indeed announced a waiver on customs duty for the import of life-saving drugs, medicines, and oxygen concentrators. An exemption was also provided for concentrators for personal use till July 2021, and it was during this period that Vinay procured them.

However, the customs notice — addressed by the assistant commissioner of customs, audit commissionerate, Mumbai — directed Vinay to either pay the levied duty along with applicable interest or reply within 15 days with substantive contentions along with documentary support as to why the amount should not be demanded.

Despite sending his reply, Vinay has not received a response from officials. "I have no means to contact the customs apart from an email... and I haven't got any reply three months on," he said.

Vinay, who is regularly involved in raising awareness on the Indian Constitution through his 'Reclaim Constitution' initiative, added: "If there is no response, I plan to pursue the matter legally through a lawyer who has volunteered his support. I do not have the financial means to fight the case despite having all the facts to support it. There has been no communication on whether the case is closed; I want closure."

TOI contacted local customs officials on the matter but received no response.

DELAYED IMPORT DUTY SHOCKER

- **2021** Activist Vinay Kumar imports & distributes 700 oxygen concentrators during
- **March 2026** Customs issues ₹35 lakh demand notice
- **June 2026** No response to activist's representation; he's considering taking legal action

> We had supplied these oxygen concentrators to the northern states as well as remote parts of Karnataka. The initiative helped save lives when many, including the elderly, were in need
>
> **Vinay Kumar** | ACTIVIST

MINOR FIRE AT NAGASANDRA METRO STATION

Panic gripped commuters at Nagasandra Metro station on the Green Line Sunday after a minor fire was noticed on a signboard near the station's emergency exit. No casualties were reported. The fire was first noticed around 1.30pm. Metro staff rushed to the spot and attempted to contain it using fire extinguishers. The fire and emergency services received an alert around 1.40pm. Personnel from Peenya Fire Station rushed to the spot with a water tanker and extinguished the flames. As per police, as a precautionary measure, passengers were prevented from heading towards the signboard. TNN

Man could be inside STP compartment: Officials

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Bengaluru: Three days after a worker went missing inside the Balagere sewage treatment plant (STP), rescue teams said thick layers of silt, sludge, plastic waste, and accumulated sewage have emerged as the biggest obstacles to the search operation.

Officials said the missing worker, Akhilesh, a 30-year-old from Bihar, is believed to be inside one of the STP's circular compartments with an approximate radius of 10-11 metres and a depth of 13 metres. However, nearly 3-4ft of the structure is covered with accumulated silt, making the search extremely difficult. "The tank has three compartments. One contains a lot of plastic and floating waste, another has sewage water and sludge, while a significant portion is covered by silt deposits. We've already searched the compartments by cutting through the concrete slabs and are rechecking them," a rescue officer said.

Officials said heavy rain on Saturday led to the fresh accumulation of water inside the tank, forcing teams to undertake de-watering operations once again before resuming the search. Another major challenge has been breaking through the thick concrete slabs covering the compartments. Rescue personnel said the slabs are nearly 1.5ft thick, requiring extensive cutting before teams can gain access to the chambers below. Multiple openings have been created across the structure to facilitate the search.

Rescue personnel are also battling hazardous conditions inside the STP. Before entering any chamber, teams are required to test for poisonous gases such as hydrogen sulphide and carbon monoxide. Officials said oxygen levels inside the structure are being continuously monitored before personnel are allowed to descend into the compartments. According to officials, the oxygen percentage in the compartments is below 19%.

The prolonged operation has also raised questions about maintenance of the STP. According to fire and emergency services personnel, silt in STPs is generally expected to be removed once every two years. "We were told that a private company visited the plant and submitted a quotation for silt removal just a week ago," a rescue personnel said. However, BWSSB officials were unavailable for comment on the matter.

Akhilesh and Akilan, a mechanical supervisor from Tamil Nadu, fell into the plant Thursday evening while inspecting it. Akilan's body was recovered early Saturday, while the search for Akhilesh continues.

TOI

Rescue ops are on at Balagere STP

Beyond retail: Malls turn into experiential social hubs

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Bengaluru: Forget the days when malls were simply places to buy clothes, catch a movie, and head home. Across the city, malls are undergoing a dramatic makeover, transforming into vibrant social hubs where visitors can attend coffee raves, train for HYROX fitness competitions, explore immersive art exhibitions, shop at sneaker festivals, learn beauty hacks from influencers, and even enjoy pet-friendly events.

"Consumers today are looking for destinations that combine retail, dining, entertainment, wellness, culture, and social interaction within a single visit. Shopping continues to be important, but the expectation has shifted towards spending meaningful time, discovering new experiences and creating memorable moments," said Ritu Mehta, director – marketing (south) & centre director, Mall of Asia.

Experience economy

There are around 30 major shopping malls across the city. With no beach or riverfront in Bengaluru, malls are the most-preferred day chilling zones for youngsters.

Jermina Menon, brand & marketing strategist at Bhartiya Urban, said consumers today are seeking immersive experiences that simply cannot be recreated on a screen. "We've also seen growing interest in wellness-focused activities, cultural programming, pet-friendly experiences, local artisan markets, children's engagement zones, and community-driven events. Consumers are looking for destinations that offer convenience along with a sense of belonging. They want a place where multiple generations can come together and find something relevant to their interests," she said. "Immersive exhibitions, AR and VR attractions, live performances, stand-up comedy, concerts and themed events are drawing strong crowds because people want to feel like they're part of an experience rather than simply watching it," said Nishank Joshi, chief marketing officer, Nexus Malls.

He pointed out that even local fusion bands in Bengaluru can "fill up our event spaces without the need for a big celebrity performer".

When every festival is mall season

Rather than relying on weekend footfall, malls are now building year-round event calendars around cultural moments and shopping seasons. "Consumers participate in both local and international events, whether it is Diwali, Christmas, Halloween, Black Friday or major technology launches. We structure our event strategy around these larger cultural and commercial cycles rather than around individual days of the week," Joshi said.

Photo for representation

The future mall

"Looking ahead, we see the next phase of Bengaluru's malls being defined by immersive technology, wellness-driven experiences, and deeper cultural integration. The outlook is for malls to evolve into mini town squares or community-centric lifestyle destinations where shopping is seamlessly integrated with entertainment, culture, and social connections," said Sunil Munshi, COO – retail, Brigade Group. The explosive growth of e-commerce has forced mall operators to rethink what physical retail should offer. "Online platforms have made shopping more convenient, which means physical spaces need to offer something that digital channels cannot provide: human connection, engagement and shared experiences," Menon said.

Still, one retail category is losing ground. "Hypermarkets have been shrinking, and we have reduced their footprint in our malls. Ten-minute delivery services have fundamentally changed grocery shopping, and that shift is unlikely to reverse. Every other category continues to perform well," Joshi said.

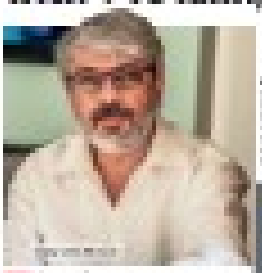
Woman climbs up terrace to trim branch, falls to death

Bengaluru: A 58-year-old woman died after falling from the terrace of her house.

Pramila Bai, a resident of Prakash Nagar in Rajajinagar, on June 18 climbed the building terrace on the second floor to cut the branches of a nearby tree stretching over her house. She lost her balance as she was standing at the edge of the roof, which was without a parapet, and fell to the ground at 5pm. Her husband said despite making repeated requests to the authorities to trim the branches, no action was taken. Frustrated by the delay, Pramila decided to do it herself.

While standing on the terrace, she stepped onto an asphalt sheet covering a room below, causing her to plunge from the terrace. A case of unnatural death report was registered at Rajajinagar police station. "Her son has filed a complaint and has not made any allegations against the officials or anyone," an officer said. TNN

Bhansali compensates deceased worker's family with ₹40 lakh; FWICE seeks stricter safety norms



Apart from monetary compensation, we have raised the issue to fully responsibility for the children's education. This is the good one, apart some, we will decide our next course of action

— Amit Behl, FWICE president

FWICE moves demand for safety audits and regulated working hours

Documentary on life of President Droupadi Murmu in the works

Kim Kardashian enters her Marilyn Monroe platinum blonde era

LA has a new holiday, and it's all about Diljit Dosanjh

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Creating innovators, not consumers

By encouraging original research and safeguarding intellectual ownership, technology can remain a tool for human empowerment rather than a cage of dependency, writes Manish Bhatia

I

Building lives with purpose

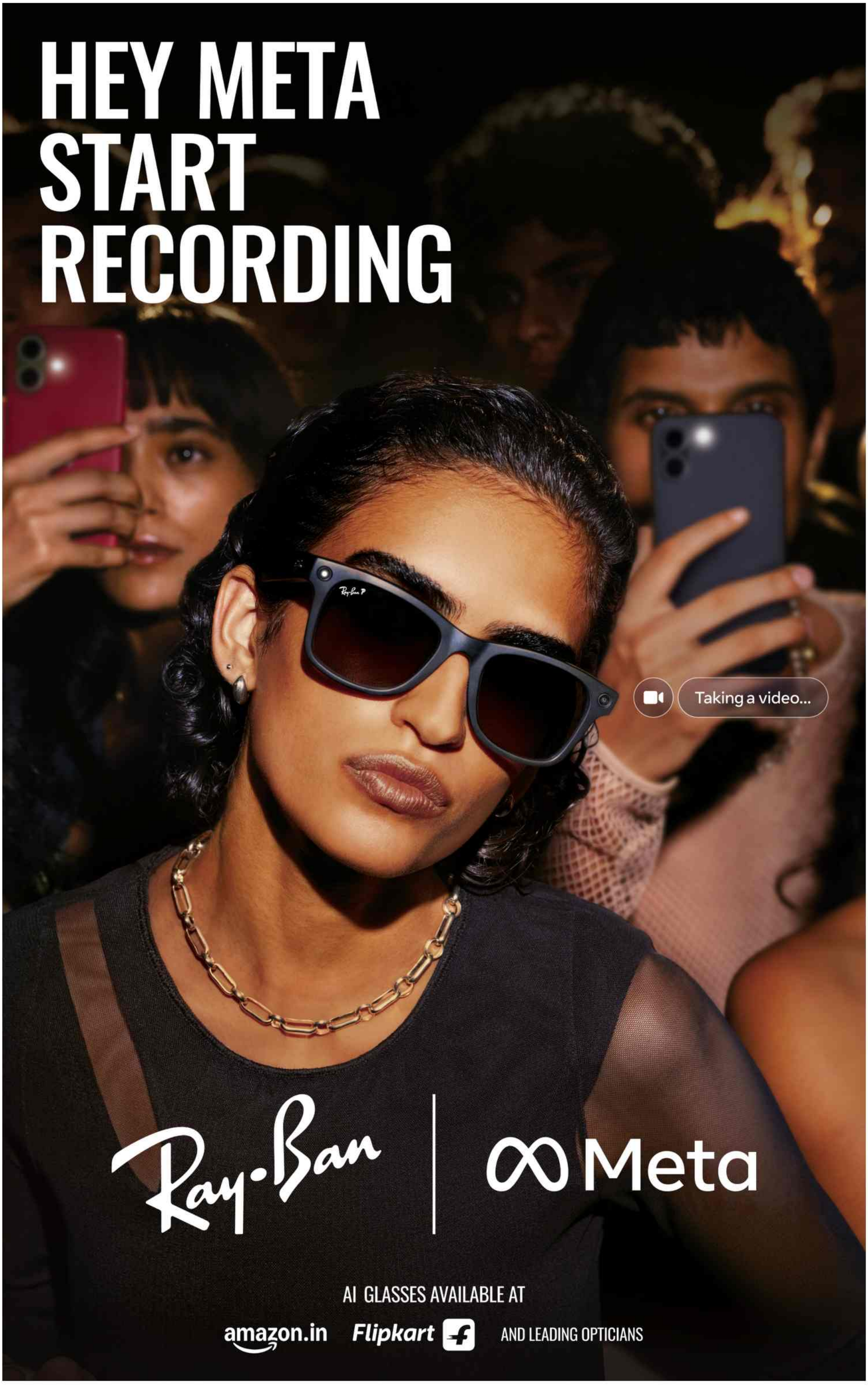
Professionals must combine modern and traditional knowledge to create sustainable infrastructure, writes Hemant B Kaushik

With AI writing the code, humans must think beyond it

The future belongs to adaptable problem-solvers who combine technical skills with creativity, writes Rajendra S Pawar

T

Every industry is being transformed by software, and the winners are not those who speak the longest, but those who learned the most and asked the right questions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Bangalore Times

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KARNATAKA PUSHES FOR UNIFIED DIGITAL PATIENT RECORDS

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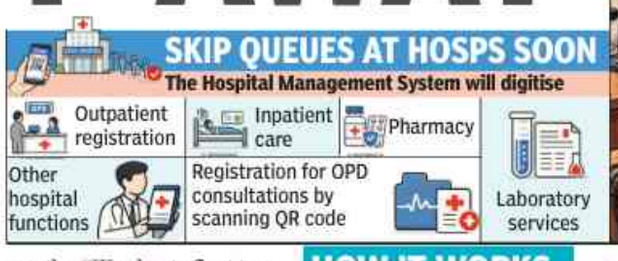


Jahnavi@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Patients visiting govt hospitals in Karnataka may soon no longer need to carry previous medical records. The govt is preparing to roll out a statewide digital health record system that will enable doctors at healthcare facilities to access a patient's medical history electronically. Access to the records will be granted only with the patient's consent, authenticated through an OTP-based verification process.

The initiative, expected to start being rolled out early next year, combines Samasta, a mobile application used by frontline health workers, with Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)-compliant Hospital Management Systems (HMS) that are being introduced in govt hospitals. Together, they aim to create interoperable digital health records that can be accessed across the state's public healthcare network.

Officials said the first round of HMS pilots, conducted across Tumakuru, Udupi, Ballari, and Dharwad, ran between June 2025 and Feb this year. A second pilot is under way in Vijayapura, Davanagere, and Mysuru, and is expected to conclude in two months. "We plan to float tenders by Oct. After the procurement process, implementation can begin early next year, although it will likely take about a year for hospitals to fully adopt the new system," an official said.

The digital system is designed to connect healthcare right from the village level.

At the heart of the community component is Samasta, an application used by Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) and Community Health Officers (CHOs). During household visits, health workers create digital family health profiles using the state's Kutumba database. Based on age, gender and eligibility, beneficiaries are automatically mapped to services such as maternal and child healthcare, immunisation, and screening for non-communicable diseases.

Officials said the system is intended to significantly reduce paperwork for frontline workers. "Earlier, ASHAs maintained multiple registers and later entered the same information into different govt portals. Samasta allows data to be entered once, while reporting happens automatically in the background."

The department is also testing whether information collected through Samasta can seamlessly integrate with hospital records. In a pilot under way in Udupi, officials are examining whether details of a patient referred by an ASHA to a govt hospital can automatically flow back into the community health platform, allowing referrals and incentives to be recorded without additional paperwork.

Unlike earlier digitisation efforts, the new model does not rely on a single software provider. The state previously used the National Informatics Centre's (NIC) e-Hospital platform, but officials said implementation challenges prompted a shift in strategy. The govt now plans to empanel multiple ABDM-compliant Hospital Management System vendors through a competitive tender.

Four vendors participated in the first pilot and three in the second. "We don't want vendor lock-in. Hospitals may use different software providers, but because all of them follow ABDM interoperability standards, patient information can move seamlessly between systems," he said.

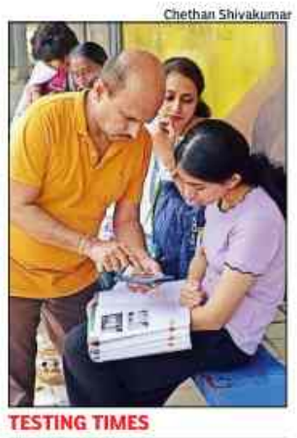
The entire system revolves around the Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) number, which acts as a unique digital health identifier. Medical records generated through Samasta or the Hospital Management System will be linked to the patient's ABHA ID. When a patient visits another hospital, doctors will be able to access previous records only after obtaining the patient's consent. Patients, not hospitals or the govt, will retain ownership of health records, which will be stored in a Personal Health Records (PHR) application.

HOW IT WORKS

1. Patient visits a govt health facility
2. Patient's ABHA ID is verified through an OTP or created if he/she does not have one
3. With the patient's consent, doctors can view previous health records
4. Consultation, tests, prescriptions, and treatment details are entered into the digital system
5. The latest medical info is added to the patient's Personal Health Record
6. During the next govt hospital visit, doctors can access the updated records again

Second shot, same anxiety: Mixed emotions for re-NEET

Chethan Shivakumar



TESTING TIMES

Anush S & Chethan Shivakumar | TNN

Bengaluru: Thousands of medical aspirants who appeared for re-NEET across 68 exam centres in Bengaluru Sunday experienced a day marked by chaos, anxiety, and contrasting emotions, with many candidates complaining that a difficult Physics paper had upset their expectations.

By 11.30am, RC College on Race Course Road was among the busiest centres. Parents gathered outside alleged that a Congress rally, involving 100-150 workers, passing through the area had delayed some students, although the claim could not be independently verified. Congestion caused by haphazard parking by parents also contributed to traffic snarls. At another centre, an aspirant is said to have missed entry after submitting the wrong hall ticket.

Day of nervous waiting

Outside centres, parents waited anxiously while students battled a second round of stress after the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test was held for the second time.

At Hasanath College on Dickenson Road, candidates streamed out around 5pm with sharply differing reactions. One girl broke down in tears and embraced her mother, while groups of students immediately began dissecting the question paper. Some parents appeared pessimistic even before their children emerged. "In the earlier exam, he had prepared well and had performed well too. I honestly don't know much about this time. He himself wasn't interested in writing it again," said Subramani D, who had come to pick up his son from Konanakunte Cross.

Physics sparks concern

Sutej, an aspirant, said his confidence had fallen considerably since his first attempt. "The overall paper was better than 2025, but Physics was tougher than both the 2025 and May 2026 exams," he said.

Maria Loorthu from Indiranagar, however, viewed the re-exam as an opportunity. "Botany and Zoology were easy. There were no indirect questions and Chemistry was better than the previous time. I didn't focus much on Physics. For me, re-NEET was a second chance and I prepared well for it," she said.

Top scorers fear a slide

For candidates who had already secured strong marks in the original exam, the repeat test has brought more apprehension than hope. Sagar SG, who scored 670 previously, said, "I'm now scared of getting even 620. I came to Bengaluru from Shivamogga to prepare for NEET. It feels like three years of preparation have gone in vain."

Congress showed political theatrics, says Surya; Kharge calls it misinfo

Bangalore South MP Tejasvi Surya alleged that Congress chose to hold its rally on the day of re-NEET, causing traffic snarls that left some students reaching exam centres in panic and seeking special accommodation. He accused the party of showing "political theatrics" instead of sensitivity towards students.

Hitting back, home minister Priyank Kharge termed the charge "misinformation" and said 720 students were allotted RC College, of whom 142 were absent. Only three candidates missed the exam: one from Magadi who could not get a bus, one who brought an old hall ticket and one from RT Nagar, whose reason for missing the test is being ascertained. "The BJP MP was conveniently silent when his own incompetent govt allowed over 22 lakh students to suffer due to NEET mismanagement, paper leaks and chaos, with over 10 students reportedly dying by suicide. By his own logic, if a student missing exams today must be blamed on Congress' rally, then Modi and Dharmendra Pradhan [Union education minister] must be held directly responsible for the paper leaks, student distress and deaths and must be thrown out of office," Kharge said.

Vidhana Soudha to prison, B'luru stretches its limits on yoga day

Times News Network

Pics: Chethan Shivakumar

Bengaluru: The steps of Vidhana Soudha transformed into a sea of wellness early Sunday morning as Bengaluru marked the 12th International Day of Yoga. Over 2,500 participants performed the common yoga protocol at the state-level event.

Themed 'Yoga for Healthy Ageing', this year's celebrations highlighted the role of yoga in promoting health, resilience, and holistic well-being with a special focus on the elderly.

"Modern lifestyle has brought comfort, but it has also triggered severe physical and mental challenges. Yoga provides us with a healthy body, a calm mind, and a positive outlook," said governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, who inaugurated the programme.

Health minister UT Khader, who called for making yoga a "daily celebration" rather than a "one-day affair," highlighted that Karnataka is home to the world's first Yoga University (S-VYASA) and the historic Mysore Yoga tradition pioneered by the Wodeyar dynasty.

Kannada film stars such as Vasishta N Simha, Hariprriya, and Shruti Hariharan attended the event.

Citizens & yoga journey

Gangamma, a teacher from Rajajinagar's Eshwara Academy, escorted seven of her school's Scouts and Guides to the event. "I never imagined it would be this grand. Seeing nearly 500 children from different schools perform yoga with such discipline is something I will never forget," she said.

Lakshmi, representing the 'Heartfulness' organisation, said: "Around 100 people from our institution were registered, and 40-50 of us made it here today. It was a great experience."

Jagadish Reddy from Electronics City, who has been practising under the Patanjali Yoga Samiti for 16 years, credited yoga for keeping him stress-free.

"Yoga teaches you how to keep a cool head and handle difficult situations calmly," he further said.

Session for prisoners

Over 4,000 inmates of the Central Prison in Parappana Agrahara, including actor Darshan (**in pic**), took part in a mass yoga session, which was also attended by Alok Kumar, DGP (prisons and correctional service). UCO Bank and Prison Ministry India, an NGO, donated 1,500 and 120 yoga mats, respectively. A song written and sung by a prisoner of Shivamogga Central Prison, Chandru Hemmadi, was broadcast by Akashvani Bhadravati Sunday. It was composed under the supervision of the chief superintendent P Ranganath with teachers, Gopalakrishna and Leela.

Schools celebrate yoga

Rashtriya Military School had its staff, students and their families, participate and perform synchronised yoga asanas, pranayama and meditation under expert guidance.

Around 100 parent-child pairs participated in a special session at Greenwood High International School.

TAKING A DEEP BREATH: A mass yoga event was conducted at Vidhana Soudha to mark the 12th International Day of Yoga in Bengaluru Sunday

Mandatory training at RGUHS

Over 45,000 students, teachers and staff from 600 health science institutions across Karnataka, under the aegis of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS), participated in a session. RGUHS vice-chancellor Bhagavan BC said mandatory yoga training will be introduced in all aided colleges.

Tactile and Braille yoga

To make yoga more inclusive, Sankara Eye Hospital in collaboration with Young Indians introduced tactile and Braille materials to help persons with visual impairment understand and practice yoga postures. The initiative brought together around 100 participants from Snehadeep Trust for the Disabled, Karnataka Welfare Association for the Blind, and Vinyasa Trust. Anitta Mary, vision rehabilitation specialist, said: "The tactile posters helping participants practise independently and build confidence."

Session at IIIT-B

Students, faculty members and staff of Indian Institute of Information Technology-Bangalore participated in a campus-wide yoga session promoting physical fitness, mental wellness and holistic health.

Four held for gym trainer's murder

Bengaluru: Bannerghatta police have arrested four persons in connection with the murder of gym trainer Vijay Kumar, 32, whose decomposed body was found in Kaleshwari village near Jigani on June 10.

The accused have been identified as Srirama, Sumith, Venkateshaiah, and Babu, residents of Anekal.

Vijay, a native of Mulbagal in Kolar district and a resident of Electronics City, had gone missing on June 8. He had been living separately from his wife and two children for the past two years amid a marital dispute and a dowry harassment case.

Meanwhile, Vijay's family claimed that an influential builder hired killers after Vijay allegedly developed a friendship with the builder's daughter, a client at his gym. The two had allegedly eloped earlier and were later traced by police. Investigators have largely ruled out Vijay's marital dispute as the motive. TNN

Symphony on streets: MG Road finds rhythm on music day

Hamsaveni.N@timesofindia.com

TOI

More than 110 artists performed at Rangoli Metro Art Centre, MG Road, on World Music Day Sunday

Bengaluru: It was not a regular Sunday on MG Road. Bengaluru's bustling boulevard traded the familiar sounds of traffic and hurried footsteps for melodies, rhythms, and applause as Rangoli Metro Art Centre came alive with a day-long celebration of World Music Day.

From classical ragas and folk tunes to film songs, devotional music, and contemporary performances, the cultural space adjacent to MG Road Metro station transformed into a vibrant showcase of the city's musical diversity. More than 110 artists took to the stage across five venues within Rangoli Metro Art Centre. Curious passers-by slowed down to see what was unfolding, while Metro commuters found themselves drawn towards the sounds drifting through the venue.

The celebrations culminated in Bengaluru's iconic Community Drum Jam, led by renowned musicians Vasundhara Das and Roberto Narain, bringing together people of all ages in a collective expression of rhythm and joy. "Usually, people travelling along MG Road may never come across theatre music or many other traditional art forms. When they stop and watch performances like these, they become aware of the culture we have in Karnataka and the music we are slowly losing," said Dr T Lakshminarayana from Ranga Shravya.

Karthik Kumar, Sangama, added: "We are not an experienced band and are still finding our feet. This was a great opportunity to showcase what our band can offer. We started with fewer than 10 people in the audience, but by the end of our performance, there were around 60 to 70 people listening to us."

Perfume experiment keeps big cats engaged at BBP

Niranjan.Kaggere @timesofindia.com

TOI

SCENT-SATIONAL

Bengaluru: What if one of the world's most effective enrichment tools for big cats wasn't a specially designed wildlife product, but a commercial men's perfume available off the shelf? As unusual as it sounds, a few sprays of a popular men's fragrance on a piece of cloth were enough to transform an ordinary afternoon for big cats at Bannerughatta Biological Park (BBP) into an exciting and stimulating experience.

BBP introduced perfume-based olfactory enrichment for captive carnivores, including lions, tigers, leopards and cheetahs. The week-long pilot, taken up last week, aimed to stimulate the animals' senses, encourage natural behaviours, and keep them mentally active in captivity.

As part of the exercise, Calvin Klein's 'Obsession for Men' was sprayed on cloth pieces and enrichment objects placed inside enclosures. Caretakers monitored how the animals responded, including time spent investigating the scent and the nature of their interactions. The results surprised them.

Several animals showed intense curiosity, repeatedly approaching the scented cloths, sniffing, licking and rubbing their faces against them. Leopards, in particular, remained engaged for nearly 15 minutes, among the longest interactions recorded during the trial. Overall, big cats stayed interested for 15-20 minutes, displaying sustained exploratory behaviour rarely seen with conventional enrichment objects.

BBP executive director AV Surya Sen said carnivores rely heavily on scent to navigate their surroundings and locate prey. "A new smell can be as stimulating as a new landscape. We used this perfume because it contains civetone, a compound similar to chemicals found in the scent secretions of civet cats. To big cats, the fragrance appears to be a biologically relevant signal. It triggers investigation, scent-marking and exploratory behaviour that forms part of their natural repertoire," he said.

BBP biologists said big cats possess highly sensitive olfactory systems capable of detecting subtle scent cues. While food and physical enrichment methods are common in Indian zoos, scent-based enrichment remains largely unexplored. BBP found the initial response encouraging. Officials believe the experiment could lead to wider use of such programmes in Indian zoos.

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Years have Passed, But Sweet Memories of You are still fresh in our Hearts.
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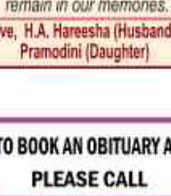
5th Anniversary



Sheela Ramanujam
02.01.1950 - 22.06.2021
Its been 5 years now and not a day goes by without you in our thoughts. Our heart still can't accept that you are not with us anymore. You were our strength. Your memory is stored in our hearts & you will always be a part of us.
Deeply Mourned by:
Husband: V Ramanujam
Children:
Sanjay, Vidhya, Meera & Raghav
Shanthi & Raj, Suchitra & Sujay

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

V. KODANDA REDDY
C K B. PROPRIETOR
DOD : 22-06-2024
Remembrance of 2nd year
Though you are no longer with us, your memories remain our greatest treasure.
DEEPLY MOURNED BY
Family Members.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Dr. M. P. SHREE
February 16, 1954 - June 22, 2017
A beautiful life, a loving heart and a soul that will always remain in our memories.
Love, H.A. Hareesha (Husband) & Pramodini (Daughter)

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In loving memory of

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Former Office Bearer of Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce and Central Board of Film Certification.
Grandchildren :
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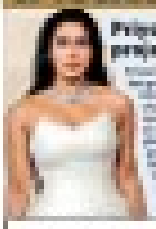

Problem to film crucial scene in Chanchalguda Central Jail

Sathyaraj teams up with Karthiga for a forthcoming project

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POV

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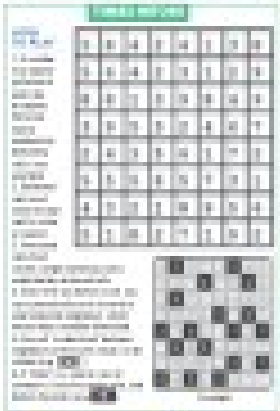
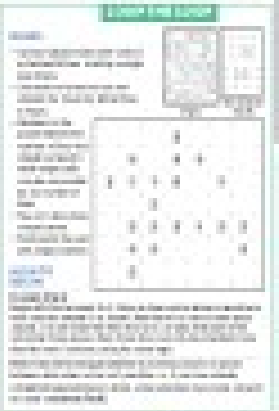
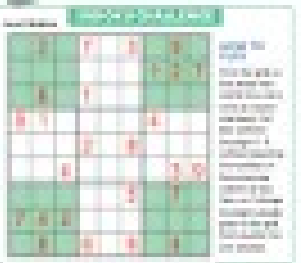
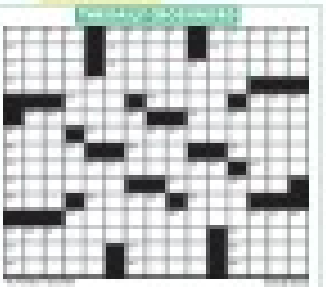
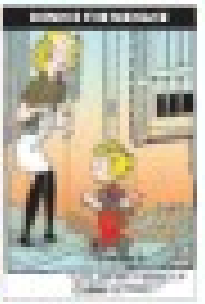
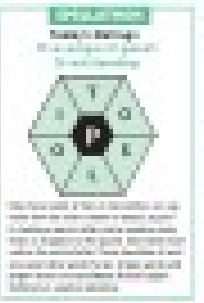


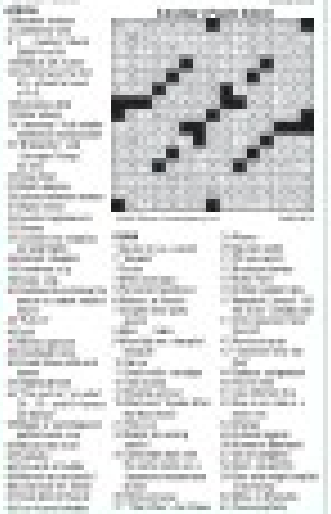


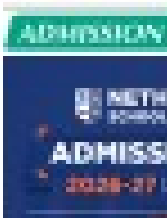


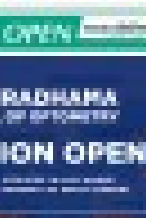


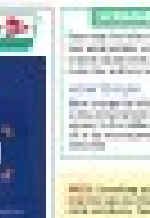


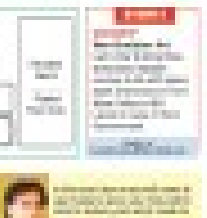


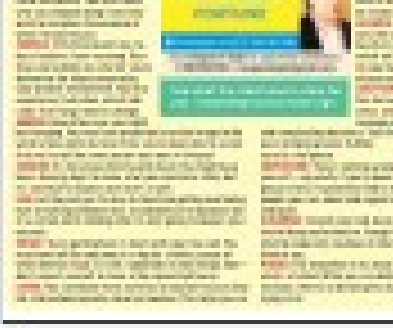


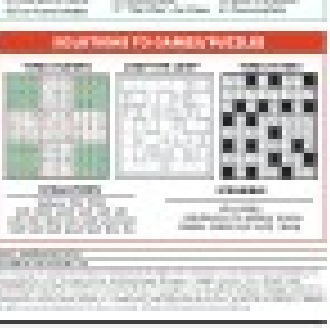








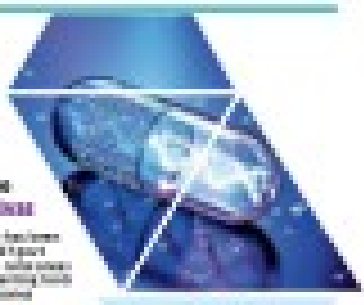




Coding the next

Generation of Doctors

By introducing subjects such as Telemedicine, and Data-driven Healthcare Solutions in curriculum, we are ensuring that future physicians will be AI-literate from their foundational years, writes Dr B Srinivas



A pilot programme has been launched to expose future medical colleges to solve issues with AI, enable measuring tools and e-book repositories

Medical education gets an AI transplant

Traditional models built around routine clinical processes are giving way to curricula prioritising ability to work alongside tech-powered systems, writes Dr Somashekhar M

Modernising army of traditional physicians

AI can be deployed to extract and update complex ancient literature, writes Dr B Srinivas

KARNATAKA CONGRESS FORMALLY GETS NEW CHIEF; DEFIANCE OF WHIP IN MLC POLLS WORRIES BJP LEADERSHIP; KHARGE SLAMS MODI AND RSS

CM unveils 50k posts for Congress workers on guarantee committees

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: As a parting gift on handing over the charge to BK Hariprasad as new KPCC president, chief minister DK Shivakumar announced that he is making way for 50,000 more leaders to come through the ranks of Congress by way of creating guarantee implementation committees at panchayat and ward levels.

Sources said, however, that they will be appointed without any remuneration for now.

"Today, I am announcing that the govt will form five-member guarantee implementation committees in all 6,000 panchayats and 4,000 urban wards in the state. The members will be appointed from among the Congress cadre and give our workers more strength," he said.

At present, the state govt has around 4,300 members working through district and taluk level committees. Each of the panels formed by the govt has 21 members at the district level and 14 at the taluk level. The chairpersons of the district committees earn Rs 40,000 per month and those who head taluk-level panels Rs 25,000.

The district-level panels have five vice-chairpersons, each earning Rs 10,000, while members earn Rs 1,200 per sitting. Shivakumar said the decision to appoint five members at every gram panchayat level is an intent to build fresh leadership at the grassroots.

"We need to build our next generation of grassroots leaders. I urge our cadre who will be included on the committees to utilise the opportunity to strengthen Congress and build the party," he said.

According to sources in the guarantees implementation committee, the 50,000 Congress workers, who will be appointed to the committees at the panchayat and ward level, will likely be working as honorary members and will not be paid any remuneration.

"The job description of these members will be to accompany the govt officials who are currently reviewing the five guarantee scheme beneficiaries in the state and verify their status," said a member of the committee.

Overall, Karnataka has 5,946 gram panchayats and 4,000 urban wards. This would mean the committees will have 49,730 members.

It is expected the decision will yield political capital as Congress workers, who will be going door-to-door, familiarise themselves with the beneficiaries and maintain a contact with them ahead of 2028 assembly elections.

New KPCC president seeks changes to composition of boards and corpns

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: As chief minister DK Shivakumar looks to expand his cabinet with fresh faces, a new political headache has cropped up in the form of KPCC president BK Hariprasad's demand for a change in the compositions of boards and corporations in the state.

There are 90 boards and corporations in the state with 1,118 posts of chairpersons and members.

Soon after taking charge as the new president of the Congress state unit, Hariprasad said in his opening remarks: "There was an agreement which has been honoured by the outgoing CM Siddaramaiah and you – Shivakumar, becoming the CM after two and a half years. Now, with that being resolved, it is time that fresh faces are inducted into even the boards and corporations as chairpersons and members."

Hariprasad provided a cricket analogy. Siddaramaiah had played the first innings and for the second innings to be played by Shivakumar, there needs to be a fresh set of players across board to understand the pitch which is changing, he said.

"Let there be a new set of leaders and workers who can reap the benefits of their blood and sweat, who brought the party to victory in 2023. It is time to appoint an entirely new set of chairpersons and members to the boards and corporations," said Hariprasad.

The KPCC president was blunt in his statements and said that power was no one person's asset and everyone who toiled for the party to come to power in 2023 must be rewarded. He went on to add that the bigger challenge for the party is to tackle the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and the inflation in the country, which is hurting the people even in the state.

Meanwhile, former CM and now CWC member Siddaramaiah said he is fully backing Hariprasad to take the party to the next level and will be more aggressive in tackling RSS and BJP, which are "anti-constitutional and believe in dictatorial rule".

He urged the party cadre to ensure that they strengthen the hands of Hariprasad and play a pivotal role in bringing Congress to power again in 2028 and also strive to make their national leader Rahul Gandhi as the next prime minister in 2029.

Earlier, Shivakumar said he is happy to hand over the position of KPCC president to another loyal worker of Congress who has come up from the rank and file of the party. He said Hariprasad will get full cooperation from the govt to ensure that the party is strengthened to make a bid to return to power in the state and also at the Centre.

CHANGE OF WIND: CM DK Shivakumar hands over 'Charge Papers' to new KPCC president BK Hariprasad at an event held in Bengaluru Sunday, marking a transition in the state unit of Congress

Kharge loses cool at 'DK' chants

Bengaluru: Congress president Mallikarjuna Kharge lost his cool at new KPCC president BK Hariprasad's charge-taking ceremony when a section of the party workers started chanting "DK, DK, DK".

Kharge termed them "useless fellows" and warned them of disciplinary action.

"Are you done with chanting? Has power come to your hands? Useless fellows. This is a party meeting. This is the Congress party, where we do not believe in personality cult but in collective leadership. So stop this individual name-chanting and take everyone together. I am warning all those doing this chanting that I shall initiate disciplinary action by watching the footage of the event," said an irate Kharge.

Later, CM DK Shivakumar also intervened and warned his supporters not to chant his name at such party events and to maintain discipline. TNN

Cross-voting: Vijayendra plans D'sthala truth test; BJP divided

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Shaken by the cross-voting in the recent legislative council election, BJP state president BY Vijayendra announced Sunday that the next legislature party meeting will be held at Dharmasthala where MLAs will be asked to take the truth test before Lord Manjunatha over whether they defied the party whip and voted for Congress.

While the BJP state unit has formed a three-member fact finding committee headed by MLC CT Ravi to identify the cross-voting MLAs, Vijayendra said he and the party are shaken by the sequence of events and could not fathom that a BJP MLA has cross voted.

He said he will speak to opposition leader R Ashoka and urge him to hold the next legislature party meeting at Dharmasthala.

Vijayendra side-stepped the entire question of whether he had confidence that the fact finding committee will identify the legislators who have cross-voted.

The first time MLA, and son of four-time CM BS Yediyurappa, said he could not sleep through the night and woke up at 3am following the incident.

> It is truly shocking that three of our legislators have cross-voted, for one reason or another. We have all observed the criticism and adverse comments against the party on social media and media. They question all the 63 legislators of the party. We are obligated to put forth the truth in front of the people
>
> **BY Vijayendra** BJP STATE PRESIDENT

"These MLAs have betrayed the trust of their mother, the party. Let them take the test before the gods to prove they have nothing to hide," Vijayendra said.

Vijayendra said the date and time for the truth test will be decided after discussing with the opposition leader.

However, opposing Vijayendra's move, senior BJP MLA S Suresh Kumar said it is a decision that would further tarnish the image of Dharmasthala that is already facing "unwarranted scrutiny".

"Please do not drag Dharmasthala into the low-level corruption that has been going on in politics. If the same people who have cross-voted take the oath of truth in front of lord Manjunatha for their survival, then it will further denigrate the piousness of Dharmasthala," said Kumar.

Some other legislators of the party also suggest that the decision to take the truth test is unwarranted, as there will be nothing but confusion in the minds of people.

"If all our 63 MLAs take the truth test, what will be the end result? It will only confuse the people further about the legislators and BJP," said a legislator. Meanwhile, the BJP state president said he and Ashoka are scheduled to visit Delhi with the committee report later this week.

"It is obvious that the central leadership is hurt and angry. I spoke to our national president Nitini Nabin Saturday morning and assured him that he will get the details of the cross-voting," he said.

On NDA partner JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy citing that each MLA was lured with Rs 50-100 crore, Vijayendra said he will not comment on it but added: "No one would have cross-voted for free."

Committed to Mekedatu project, says Kumaraswamy

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mandya: Union minister HD Kumaraswamy has reiterated his commitment to the Mekedatu drinking water project.

Speaking to reporters Sunday, the Mandya Lok Sabha MP said the proposed reservoir at Mekedatu is intended solely to meet the drinking water requirements of Bengaluru and surrounding areas and urged Tamil Nadu to support the initiative.

"The project will benefit both states, and water issues should not be politicised for electoral gains," he said.

He said even his father and former prime minister HD Deve Gowda had met PM Narendra Modi and presented a case for it with a delegation of legislators.

He said Modi had also said the issue should be resolved between the two riparian states.

Kumaraswamy also criticised Congress leaders for questioning the commitment of Karnataka MPs on interstate water disputes. He alleged that senior Congress functionaries, including Mallikarjun Kharge, remained silent on Cauvery, Upper Bhadra and Krishna river projects.

'NEET problems should not recur'

Kumaraswamy said NEET UG paper leaks and the resulting uncertainty have deeply affected students and their families. There have even been tragic cases of students taking extreme steps.

Such incidents must never recur, he said.

Stressing the need for systemic reforms, he urged authorities to learn from the lapses and implement strict safeguards to protect the integrity of competitive examinations.

NEET was conducted once again Sunday as the test held earlier was scrapped. TNN

RSS filling institutions with its own people: Cong chief

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge targeted RSS for using "educational institutions for its political gains".

"RSS is filling the teachers' posts with their own people. They are also having vice-chancellors of universities from their own ranks. It is using these institutions for their political gains and to capture the political arena," claimed Kharge.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US president Donald Trump, who call themselves friends, are "spoiling" India and the rest of the world.

"On one side there is our PM Modi who is spoiling our nation and on the other is US president Donald Trump who is spoiling the world. And both have been calling each other friends. Both these friends are hurting our country and our people," he said.

Kharge, also referred to the alleged misappropriation at the Ayodhya Ram Mandir, where, he claimed, Rs 5,000 crore had been siphoned off.

"When sought for an SIT, UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath has sought 15 days' time. You have the temple with you, you have PM Modi with you, you have the centre with you and you have the administration with you. You even have god with you, as per your own claims. Then why do you need 15 days?" Kharge said. TNN

RSS general secy flags demographic 'imbalance'

Mangaluru: RSS joint general secretary Mukunda CR has raised concerns over India's demographic transition, calling it an "imbalance". At an interaction marking the RSS centenary Sunday, he said, "It had been estimated that the population would reach 900 crore by the year 2100. But nobody anticipated that the population would decline so rapidly. However, analyses suggest that going forward, it will decrease even further than its current level."

He added that the proportion of youth in a country must align with the number of parents—those aged 60 and above—for society to remain balanced.

Mukunda said several European nations have aged populations. "Demographic transition is a major change in the world and in our 'Kutumba Prabodhana' (family awakening) programs as well. We discuss this matter from time to time. It is not just a demographic transition, but a demographic imbalancs."

He listed four main reasons for demographic transition in India: A decline in the population of children, specifically due to a lower fertility rate in the Hindu population; religious conversion; infiltration from foreign countries, particularly Bangladesh; and rapid population growth of non-Hindu communities. TNN

Karnataka spends ₹7,024 per person on overall healthcare

▶ Continued from page 1

But the comparison gets more interesting once govt spending is factored in. Both Uttarakhand and J&K get to their low OOPE shares by leaning heavily on the state: govt expenditure accounts for 64.4% of THE in Uttarakhand and 68.3% in J&K.

Karnataka's govt spend, by contrast, covers just 33.2% of THE, meaning the state manages a similarly low out-of-pocket burden while spending far less, proportionally, from the public purse.

Karnataka residents' OOPE is estimated at Rs 2,049 per person annually. That's higher in absolute terms than both Uttarakhand (Rs 1,593) and J&K (Rs 1,701), but lower than the national average of Rs 2,767.

Karnataka spends Rs 7,024 per person on healthcare overall, more than the national average of Rs 6,373, and well above what either Uttarakhand (Rs 5,523) or J&K (Rs 5,734) spends per person. Yet, Karnataka's healthcare spending amounts to just 0.7% of GSDP, lower than the national average and lower than comparable states.

Taken together, the numbers present a paradox. Karnataka is among the states where families are least exposed to medical expenses, but it is not among the biggest public spenders on health, relative to either its own economy or its peers.

HOW MUCH TOP STATES ARE SPENDING

Indicator	Uttarakhand	J&K	K'taka
Per-capita THE	₹5,523	₹5,734	₹7,024
Per-capita OOPE	₹1,593	₹1,701	₹2,049
Health spend as a % Of GSDP	1.5%	2.5%	0.7%

> I think the govt is increasingly relying on public-private partnerships and health insurance schemes with empanelled private hospitals instead of strengthening its own healthcare system
>
> **Dr Sylvia Karpagam** | PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCHER

Ritvik R Pandey, principal secretary, department of health and family welfare, said: "The state's long-standing public health initiatives such as Arogya Karnataka and Yashaswini, along with a robust govt healthcare system that provides free medicines and diagnostic services, are a couple of reasons," he said.

Pandey said the availability of CT scans, MRI facilities, dialysis and nearly 900 medicines free of cost had reduced dependence on private providers. "People can access quality government hospitals with facilities like CT scans, MRI, dialysis and free medicines. These expenses reduce significantly," he said, adding the govt was expanding advanced diagnostic facilities to district and remote hospitals with the aim of bringing down out-of-pocket expenditure further.

He also argued that health expenditure routed through local bodies, zilla and taluk panchayats and local area development funds may not always be captured in state spending figures. Besides, he said, health spending as a share of GSDP tends to taper in richer states where investments in infrastructure and institutions have already reached prescribed norms.

Public health researcher Dr Sylvia Karpagam cautioned against interpreting the data too broadly. "I think the govt is increasingly relying on public-private partnerships and health insurance schemes with empanelled private hospitals instead of strengthening its own healthcare system," she said.

Karpagam said lower OOPE does not necessarily mean everyone is protected. Outpatient care, medicines, travel and follow-up treatment often remain outside insurance coverage, and studies have shown that families covered under government schemes can still end up spending anywhere between Rs 10,000 and Rs 1 lakh.

She pointed to gaps in access. Senior citizens, tribal communities, people in remote areas and those without social support often struggle to benefit fully from existing schemes, she said.

Fake customer care number costs doc ₹1.7L

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A routine home-cleaning booking turned into a costly cyber fraud for a city-based doctor, who lost Rs 1.7 lakh after contacting a fake customer care executive.

According to the complaint filed by Dr Imtiaz Zafar, a resident of Lakkasandra in Wilson Garden, he had booked a cleaning service through the Urban Company app. The assigned worker was scheduled to arrive at 9.15am on June 7.

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However, when the person failed to turn up even by 11am, the doctor searched for the company's customer care number and contacted a mobile number displayed online.

The call recipient, who identified himself as Rakesh Sharma, claimed to be a customer care executive. When Dr Zafar requested cancellation of the booking, the fraudster allegedly manipulated the process, asked him to follow a few instructions, and gained access to his banking-linked digital payment application.

Unauthorised transactions were carried out from Dr Zafar's bank account, resulting in a total loss of Rs 1.7 lakh between June 8 and June 10. The doctor learned about the fraud on June 12, following which he contacted the cyber helpline.

50% fine waiver nets ₹96.7L on day 1

The govt's 50% concession on pending traffic e-challan fines saw a strong response on day one, generating Rs 96.7 lakh in revenue. Bengaluru traffic police said 32,486 pending cases were settled through various payment modes. Officials expect collections to increase as more vehicle owners use the scheme, which is open until July 10, allowing violators to clear pending e-challans at half the original fine amount.

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- Artificial Intelligence & Robotics
- Computer Science & Engineering
- CSE (Artificial Intelligence)
- Computer Science & Technology
- CSE (Cyber Security)
- CSE (Data Science)
- Mechanical Engineering
- CSE (Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning)
- CSE (Artificial Intelligence & Data Science)
- Computer Science & Medical Engineering
- Electronics & Communication Engineering

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TIMES NATION

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2026

STOP TARGETED DEMOLITIONS OF MOSQUES ACROSS RAJASTHAN'S BORDER DISTRICTS, OWAISI URGES SHAH

BHAGAVAD GITA STRENGTHENS MIND, GUIDES PEOPLE THROUGH LIFE'S CHALLENGES: UTTARAKHAND CM DHAMI

HACK OF THE DAY HOW TO TRACK LIVE PLATFORM CHANGES FOR YOUR TRAIN

WHAT IT SOLVES: Last-minute platform changes can mean missed trains and rushed crossings

WHAT TO DO: Check NTES train status before leaving and again near departure time

STEPS:

1. Open NTES or official enquiry
2. Search by train number
3. Check arrival and platform info
4. Refresh before entering station
5. Follow station displays for final call

NOTE: Platform data can change; station displays and announcements remain final

SCAN FOR MORE HACKS

Source: Indian Railways NTES. Readers are advised to follow official websites & updated rules.

14-year-old detained for 'torching' school bus in Bihar's Nalanda

A 14-year-old boy was detained after CCTV footage showed him pouring petrol on a parked bus of a private school and setting it ablaze in Bihar's Nalanda district Sunday, police said. Flames destroyed the bus within minutes. Fire tenders and residents contained the blaze before it spread to other vehicles on the school campus. "During initial questioning, it emerged that he set the bus on fire after being misled by someone," an official said. School filed a written complaint. Police are questioning the boy and examining all angles. Police have not established a motive. According to school representative Rohit Kumar, the institute was closed Sunday. "Matchsticks were also found lodged in the office gate lock, indicating that someone may have deliberately attempted to carry out the arson," he said. TNN

STATOISTICS A slice of life in numbers

Why space can provide us 10x more power

Solar panels in space get continuous sunlight, with no clouds, weather disruptions, or day-night cycle. They can generate several times more power than similar panels on earth

Power from solar arrays on earth vs in orbit

ON EARTH	IN ORBIT
Atmosphere absorbs ~30% of sunlight	Continuous sunlight
Solar power absent at night, batteries needed	No batteries needed
Weather, seasonal fluctuations also affect charging	Year-round consistent output

Source: A16Z

CoTU imposes indefinite shutdown along NH-2, NH-37

Imphal: The Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU), a Kuki-Zo organisation, imposed an indefinite shutdown along National Highway-2 and National Highway-37 from 4pm Sunday. The protest was in response to ongoing violence and alleged failure to ensure justice and security for affected communities.

CoTU, in a statement, alleged partisan and selective security operations in the Leimakhong-Kangchup area amid escalating tensions involving the Kuki and Naga communities. TNN

Triggered by Telegram curbs, VPN downloads hit 2026 high

On June 17, Day After Ban, It Touched 919,000, Up 76% From June 9-15 Average

Aabhas.Sharma
@timesofindia.com

EVADING RESTRICTIONS

New Delhi: Restrictions on Telegram triggered the biggest surge in VPN downloads in the country this year, as users sought ways to retain access to the messaging platform and shifted to alternative apps, according to data shared by App Figures, an app intelligence firm.

After the Centre imposed the temporary ban on June 16, downloads of the top 100 VPN apps in India reached 919,000 on June 17, up 76% from the June 9-15 average and 63% higher than the broader June 1-15 baseline. Downloads had already climbed to 645,000 on June 16, making June 17 the strongest day for VPN apps in India since at least the beginning of 2025. VPNs, or virtual private networks, encrypt internet traffic and route it through servers in other locations, allowing users to mask their IP addresses and bypass certain network restrictions. They are commonly used for privacy and security, but spikes in downloads often occur when access to websites or apps is disrupted, as users look for ways to continue using affected services.

The spike came after govt imposed restrictions on Telegram over concerns around exam-related fraud content on the instant messaging app.

Proton VPN was among the biggest gainers, with downloads surging 157% from a recent average of around 60,500 a day to 1,55,430 on June 17. Turbo VPN nearly doubled to 1,22,030 downloads, while Ninja VPN recorded a 669% jump and ExpressVPN rose 345%, as per the App Figures data.

The rush also reshaped app store rankings. Proton VPN climbed from eighth place in Google Play's Tools category on June 17 to the top spot by June 19, while Turbo VPN rose from eleventh to second.

Users also flocked to alternative messaging services. Telegram Messenger downloads plunged from a recent daily average of 1,25,048 to just 38 on June 17, reflecting the impact of the restrictions.

At the same time, Telegram X, an alternative Telegram client, saw downloads soar 6,509% to 3,50,764, while Telegram-linked messaging app iMe jumped 22,018% to 1,70,372. Signal, which markets itself as a privacy-focused messaging app, recorded a 571% increase to 32,106 downloads. The data suggests users responded to the restrictions in two ways: by turning to VPNs to maintain access to Telegram and by experimenting with alternative or Telegram-adjacent messaging services. Big-name rivals such as WhatsApp saw only limited gains, likely because of their already extensive user bases.

30% of pedestrian deaths are on nat'l highways: Govt report

Dipak.Dash@timesofindia.com

CASUALTIES SURGE 58% OVER 4 YRS

Year	Total pedestrian deaths	on NH	Million-plus cities
2019	25,858	7,749	3,384
2020	23,124	7,753	2,818
2021	29,124	9,462	3,780
2022	32,825	10,160	4,362
2023	35,221	11,180	4,604
2024	36,526	11,386	4,328

New Delhi: Pedestrian deaths are not just a city problem. Govt data from 2019-24 shows that highways and other non-urban roads witnessed a large number of such fatalities. Nearly 30% of more than 1.8 lakh pedestrian fatalities were reported on national highways (NHs) while the 50 million-plus cities had nearly 12-13% of all such deaths during the period, as per road transport ministry reports.

The remaining deaths were reported from urban roads which are not part the of the 50 million-plus cities, and other roads under classifications such as state highways, district, major and rural roads.

The "Road Accident" reports — which collate data provided by state police departments — also show that on an average over 30,500 pedestrians were killed annually between 2019 and 2024, underscoring their vulnerability as the most at-risk category of road users.

The latest road crash data released by the ministry for 2024 reveals that nearly 54% of 36,526 involved collisions with two-wheelers and cars, claiming 19,680 lives. The trend has been similar in recent years. Road safety experts said this points to how lack of separate and safe footpaths and crossing infrastructure for pedestrians is the biggest reason behind India's pedestrian fatality toll, which is among the highest globally.

This high number of pedestrian deaths calls for the attention of policymakers and road construction and maintenance agencies, in light of the latest Supreme Court order upholding the right to walk on footpaths as a fundamental right.

Minister's nephew held for 'suicide abetment'

Berhampur: The Ganjam police on Sunday arrested the nephew of a state cabinet minister for allegedly abetting the suicide of a BCA student who was found dead in a private engineering college at Golanthara near Berhampur on Saturday.

"We have arrested Biswajit Jena (24), who graduated from the same college recently, based on a complaint by the victim's unlce," Berhampur SP Saravana Vivek M said. Jena was the victim's boyfriend.

On Saturday, the deceased, a second-year student (20), was found hanging in her hostel room. The exact cause of her death would be ascertained after receiving the post-mortem report, Vivek said, adding, "Investigation is going on." TNN

No JEE ranks, GATE scores in resumes, IIT students told

Hemali.Chhapia
@timesofindia.com

AI generated/Pic for representation

NEW STEP: The move to remove rankings arose from concerns that recruiters could infer whether a student belonged to general or reserved category

Mumbai: In a set of decisions that could reshape campus recruitment across the country's premier engineering institutions, the All IITs Placement Committee (AIPC) has directed students across all 23 IITs to remove JEE ranks, GATE scores, percentiles and similar entrance examination credentials from their resumes. At the same time, the IITs have decided to take a tougher stance against companies that issue job offers and later withdraw them, potentially restricting future engagement with such recruiters for up to two years if their explanations are found unsatisfactory.

Taken together, the measures reflect a growing concern within the IIT system that fairness in recruitment depends not only on how students are evaluated, but also on how they are treated once selected.

The decisions were taken unanimously at a recent meeting of the AIPC, the official body of 23 IITs that coordinates and issues common guidelines on internship and placement drives across all IITs. According to AIPC convenor John Jose, the move to remove entrance examination rankings from resumes arose from concerns that recruiters could sometimes infer whether a student belonged to the general or reserved category by comparing a candidate's rank with the opening and closing ranks of a particular IIT programme.

"The distinction is an important one. An entrance examination captures a moment in time. A degree reflects years of work that follow. The objective is that students should be evaluated on their competence, skills and achievements at IIT. What will disappear is the score that opened the gate," said prof Jose, also a senior faculty of computer science engineering at IIT Guwahati.

For generations of IIT students, a rank was more than a number. It was a badge of honour earned through years of preparation, sacrifice and competition. Now, in a move that reflects a changing understanding of merit itself, IITs have decided that those ranks should no longer accompany students into the job market.

Under the revised guidelines, students may continue to highlight their Cumulative Performance Index (CPI), projects, internships, research work and other accomplishments earned during their years at IIT, explained Jose. Entrance examination scores may only be shared if a recruiter specifically requests them, but they will no longer be part of the standard resume circulated through placement channels.

The committee also addressed a growing concern among placement offices: companies extending job offers to students only to revoke them months later. "Because students who accept an offer are typically removed from the placement process, such reversals can leave them stranded after missing other opportunities," said prof Jose. To discourage the practice, IITs have begun documenting instances of offer withdrawals and seeking explanations from recruiters. Companies found reneging on commitments may face restrictions on participation for the next two years in IIT recruitment drives.

Another decision seeks to change how placement success is measured. Rather than publicising the highest salary packages secured by a handful of graduates, IITs will report median salaries, which officials believe provide a more accurate picture of outcomes across an entire programme.

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Notice is hereby given to the Public at large that my client COUNCIL FOR THE INDIAN SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION (CISCE), (Non-Governmental Board of School Education) having their registered address at P 35-36, Pushp Vihar, Saket, New Delhi 110017 intending to purchase the said property mentioned hereinafter on ownership basis for the educational use and thus executing Memorandum of Understanding /Agreement for Sale / Conveyance Deed accordingly.

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Adv. Mahendra Kadam (Mobile No.: 9820281194)
C/03, Bhakti Palace, Link Road, Dahisar (west), Mumbai - 400068

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAJEEV , S/O MULKI KRISHNA RAMESH, born on 29th April 1980, R/O U704 MANTRI WEBCITY APARTMENT, PARCEL 3, Hennur Main Road, Kothanur, Bengaluru - 560077, KARNATAKA, have changed my name to RAJEEV RAMESH vide affidavit dated 20 June 2026, Bengaluru.

I, PRIYANK MAHALAHA S/o PRADEEP MAHALAHA R/o FLAT NO 007 ,G-MJ LIFESTILE ALDILA APARTMENT BEGUR RD OPP GOVT HIGH SCHOOL ,BENGALURU PIN:560068 ,KARNATAKA , INDIA, have changed the name of my minor son namely PRAYAN MAHALAHA, aged 3 years and he shall hereafter be known as TEJAS KUMAR MAHALAHA.

I SHANKAR S S/o late Subbaiah G H/O No.09 1st cross Venkatappa layout RMV 2nd stage Sanjaynagar Bangalore 560094. Shall henceforth be known as SHANKAR SUBBAIAH via Affidavit No. IN-KA95451115314691Y dt 19/06/2026

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Henceforth, all correspondence and transactions may be continued in the name of Bhandari Builders Private Limited.

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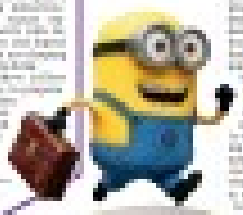
In the game of AI human advantage is a deciding factor

Digital literacy must become a core component of managerial training across disciplines, writes Prof Ramakrishna Rao

Redefining success by replacing salary metrics with innovation indicators

Those who know how to collaborate with intelligent systems will be in a special position, writes Sankalpa Bose



B-schools must produce entrepreneurs, not just employees

The task before institutions is to translate ambition into competence, character, and courage, writes Swapnil Sahoo

Shri D K Shivakumar
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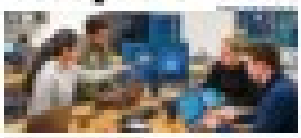
BDA Chairman **Shri N.A. Haris** planting a sapling as part of the **Bengaluru Urban Ecological Restoration Mission 2026–2030**

NFSU to help UAE, Uzbekistan and Rwanda set up forensic campuses



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Modi steps off dais, helps people with yoga postures

Around 35k, Including School Students, Join PM-Led Event In Kol

Sarthak Ganguly & Poulami Roy Banerjee | TNN

Kolkata: The 12th International Day of Yoga celebrations on Red Road saw PM Narendra Modi step off the dais after delivering his speech, join the participants in performing asanas and help at least three of them 'correct' their postures.

Around 35,000 participants, including school students and residents from districts, joined the event, which started at 6am and continued till around 8am on Sunday. Nearly 30,000 other yoga enthusiasts who failed to make it to the venue — a 1km-stretch on Red Road — performed asanas in the vicinity.

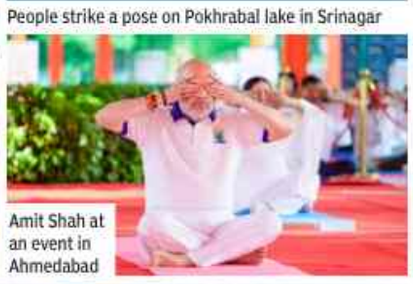
The session began with the chanting of 'Om'. Instructions, given in Bengali and Hindi, were accompanied by demonstrations on the stage.

Modi, who arrived on Red Road around 6.25am, dressed in a white T-shirt and white trousers, said in his speech, "From the Himalayas to the Indian Ocean, and from Bengal and the North-East to the western region of Saurashtra, the entire nation is energised by the spirit of yoga. The country and the world are connected through a shared commitment to wellness and harmony, reflecting the unifying power of yoga."

Photos: IANS/PTI

PM Modi helps a participant correct his asana in Kolkata

People strike a pose on Pokhrabal lake in Srinagar



Amit Shah at an event in Ahmedabad

Army personnel perform yoga at Pangong Tso

After delivering his speech, he stepped down from the dais and performed various moves for around 15 minutes before moving around and helping participants.

Around a couple of hours after the programme ended, the city got drenched in what is so far the heaviest downpour this monsoon.

Modi later posted on social media: "An exceptional Yoga Day programme in Kolkata! This time, the theme was 'Yoga For Healthy Ageing', which emphasised the importance of yoga in all ages to remain fit and healthy."

In his address, the PM praised the people of Kolkata for their efforts under the "Swachhta Se Swagat" initiative. The dedication, hard work and civic responsibility demonstrated by the citizens in maintaining cleanliness have become an inspiration for people across the country, he said.

ED summons Pinarayi's daughter again on June 29

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: Enforcement Directorate, which questioned leader of the opposition **Pinarayi Vijayan**'s daughter Veena T for nine hours Wednesday in connection with the CMRL-Exalogic case, will question her again. The agency has issued another summons directing her to appear before it for questioning on June 29.

ED is learnt to have decided to question her again after analysing her statements and verifying evidence seized during the investigation. Two days after she was questioned on Wednesday, the central agency sleuths inspected her bank lockers. ED is also in the process of questioning others related to the case.

ED claims that Veena's company, Exalogic Solutions Pvt Ltd, received fraudulent payments totalling Rs 2.8 crore from CMRL under the guise of IT consultancy services

Serious Frauds Investigations Office's (SFIO) probe into the Cochin Minerals and Rutile Ltd (CMRL) revealed alleged fraudulent cash expenses of Rs 182 crore over 15 years. ED's allegation is that one of the fake expenses booked by CMRL was towards a payment to Veena. ED claims that her company, Exalogic Solutions Pvt Ltd, received fraudulent payments totalling Rs 2.8 crore from CMRL under the guise of IT consultancy services.

Further, ED said Empower India Capital Investment Pvt Ltd (EICPL), operated by CMRL managing director Sasidharan Kartha, extended loans to Exalogic of Rs 50 lakh despite Exalogic failing to make timely repayments.

ED, meanwhile, is in the process of formally obtaining the entire volumes of documents compiled by SFIO in the case. A court in Kochi had earlier allowed the ED's request for the same.

Osmanabad MP confirms he's quitting Uddhav's Sena

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Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar: In a significant setback for Sena UBT, Osmanabad MP Omprakash Rajenimbalkar Sunday announced his decision to quit the party and became the sixth MP to align with deputy CM Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena.

Speaking after a closed-door meeting with supporters in Govardhanwadi village in Dharashiv, Rajenimbalkar framed his move as driven by governance and ground realities. "I have been in politics since 2006, and people know me well as I work for the cause of the common man... I want to use my position to bring smiles to faces," he said.

The MP pointed to recent electoral setbacks to explain his shift. "My party workers and I work around the clock and people are witness to it. We were not short of any effort, but lost against power," he said, referring to defeats in local self-governing body polls in Dharashiv.

He said CM Devendra Fadnavis and Shinde enabled his discussions with Union home minister Amit Shah over his demand for a CBI appeal in the 2006 murder case of his father, Pawanraje Nimbalkar.

Rajenimbalkar said his move would not dilute his stand against his uncle, former NCP minister Padamsinh Patil (one of the accused acquitted), and Patil's son and BJP MLA Ranjitsinha Patil. "Irrespective of parties we belong to, I would not hesitate to stop such mentalities," he said.

He maintained a conciliatory tone towards the Thackerays. He said he continued to have respect for Balasaheb, Uddhav and Aaditya Thackeray, and assured that neither he nor his supporters would resort to personal attacks.

The announcement came despite last-minute efforts by the UBT camp to retain him, with MLAs Varun Sardesai and Kailas Patil reaching out to him in Pune late Saturday.

Rajenimbalkar's exit strengthens the group of rebel MPs whose numbers are key to crossing the two-thirds threshold required to avoid disqualification under anti-defection laws.

I head the only Shiv Sena, says Uddhav

Mumbai: A day after Union home minister Amit Shah said the Eknath Shinde-led party was the only Shiv Sena, Sena UBT chief **Uddhav Thackeray** asserted Sunday that the only Shiv Sena was the one headed by him, reports **Chaitanya Marpakwar**.

"Some outsider came to Kolhapur. He made a new discovery that there is only one Shiv Sena. Yes, there is only one Shiv Sena; it is mine, ours and Balasaheb's Shiv Sena.. There will be no other Shiv Sena chief. BJP might do with any president, but ... people will not accept anyone else as Shiv Sena chief," he said at a rally in Bhandup, in the constituency of rebel MP Sanjay Dina Patil.

Suggesting that "outsiders stay within their limits", he said, "Shiv Sena was formed for the rights of the Marathi manoos to stop attacks from outsiders... You have the chair today. So, people are scared of you. But once I come on to the battlefield, I don't need anyone's security... I have Shiv Sainiks."

Uddhav visited shakhas in Bhandup and Kanjurmarg as he began a tour of the constituencies of all six rebel party MPs.

Nishant set for bigger JDU role, Nitish secures 5th stint as chief

Madan.Kumar
@timesofindia.com

Patna: JDU Sunday formally signalled a generational shift in the party with senior functionaries projecting **Nishant Kumar** as its future face even as the national council ratified Nitish Kumar's re-election as national president for the fifth time.

At JDU's state council and national council meetings in Patna, party functionaries endorsed Nishant for a larger role in the organisation and expressed confidence in his ability to carry forward Nitish's political legacy and developmental agenda.

JDU national working president Sanjay Kumar Jha said Nishant's growing involvement in party affairs had generated fresh enthusiasm among workers. "The biggest quality of Nishant is that he talks less and works more and, owing to this work style, he will emerge as the brightest star on the horizon of Bihar politics," Jha said.

JDU national spokesperson Rajeev Ranjan Prasad, briefing reporters after the national council meeting, said Jha told party delegates that Nishant would be the "future face of JDU for the next three to four decades". Prasad said the national council unanimously resolved that the party would work to become stronger and more people-oriented under him.

Responding to the endorsement by senior functionaries, Nishant said Nitish had carried out historic work across Bihar in the past two decades. "JDU will become Bihar's number one party," he said, while urging workers to strengthen the resolve of building a new and empowered state under Nitish's guidance.

The national council also praised Nitish for ensuring a smooth transition of office in Bihar and ratified his re-election as national president in the organisational polls held earlier this year. This is the first time Nitish has held the party's top organisational post while not serving as CM.

ED attaches ₹1,000cr assets in Goa illegal mining case

Panaji: Enforcement Directorate Sunday provisionally attached movable and immovable assets worth Rs 1,023.9 crore of the AVS Group, including those located in Singapore, in connection with an alleged illegal iron ore mining case in Goa, reports **Murari Shetye**.

The ED probe revealed that the AVS Group, part of the Salgaocar Group and associates, operated 10 mining leases during 2007-12 and generated proceeds of crime of Rs 2,493 crore from alleged illegal extraction, sale and export of iron ore.

The agency said the illegally mined ore was exported at grossly undervalued prices to shell entities (special purpose vehicles) incorporated in the British Virgin Islands which acted as mere paper intermediaries and resold the ore to China, generating further offshore trade profits of approximately over Rs 2,744 crore.

"The proceeds of crime work out to over Rs 5,237 crore. These funds were layered through BVI- and Singapore-based SPVs and utilised to acquire substantial movable and immovable assets abroad and partly routed back into India in the guise of share capital," the probe agency said.

Based on an FIR registered by the Goa police's crime branch, the agency's zonal office in Panaji attached the properties under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Rahul meets 5 key Punjab netas ahead of call on party rejig

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: As Congress rethinks its organisational leadership in poll-bound Punjab, **Rahul Gandhi** Sunday met five key state functionaries ahead of a decision on a reshuffle.

Leader of the opposition Partap Singh Bajwa, state chief Amarinder Raja Warring, ex-CM Charanjit Singh Channi, Sukhjinder Randhawa and Vijay Inder Singla met Rahul at 10, Janpath.

Sources said Rahul asked them to fight the polls collectively, a day after the party brass discussed a report of the Ajay Maken panel set up to look into the Punjab unit. Meenakshi Natarajan and Bhajan Lal Jatav were other members of the panel.

The five state functionaries are said to have given their views on the nature of the team with which Congress should go to the polls. Rahul called the leaders individually and sought their opinions.

Bajwa told reporters, "I put forward my viewpoint on what is best for the party, and I said whatever decision you (Rahul) take, we'll stand by it. We're committed soldiers of Congress."

Make voting fundamental right: Cong

New Delhi: With SC declaring the right to walk on footpaths a fundamental right, Congress Sunday said the right to vote should also be declared a fundamental right, arguing that it would counter the "largescale voter suppression" under SIR of electoral rolls.

Party spokesperson Jairam Ramesh said EC's "blatantly partisan functioning at the behest of the PM and the home minister has been brutally exposed" which demands that the right to vote be elevated to a fundamental right for highest-level of judicial review and protection.

"It would be a powerful step in putting in place safeguards against voter suppressions or arbitrary disqualifications that have taken place in different states in astronomical numbers under SIR. It would also mean greater SC vigilance over EC's functioning," he said. He said the Constituent Assembly had discussed making the right to vote a fundamental right, with BR Ambedkar and Jagjivan Ram arguing strongly in its favour. TNN

Mathura temple seeks SIT probe into donations

Agra: Mathura's Shri Krishna Janmasthan Seva-Sansthan has written to chief minister Yogi Adityanath seeking an official probe into the allegations of financial misconduct levelled against it by seer Dinesh "Phalahari" Maharaj, days after UP govt ordered an SIT inquiry into alleged irregularities in offerings and donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, reports **Sudeep Lavania**.

The Mathura controversy began after Phalahari Maharaj accused Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi temple management of lack of transparency in donations, gold and silver ornaments, and revenue linked to rituals such as "Chhappan Bhog", the traditional offering of 56 delicacies to Lord Krishna. He demanded a CBI probe into the temple's revenue system and drew parallels with the donation row in Ayodhya.

Phalahari Maharaj, a petitioner associated with Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi movement, alleged that donations and valuables offered by devotees required independent scrutiny and accused Kapil Sharma, secretary of Shri Krishna Janmasthan Seva-Sansthan, of amassing assets worth Rs 1,000 crore. Sharma dismissed the allegations as malicious and unsupported, and said the trust was ready for an official examination. In a letter sent to the CM on June 20, Sharma rejected the allegations and asked state govt to get the matter investigated by a competent authority.

Why daily Indian staple is having a moment as 'It' veggie of 2026

Rich in fibre, nutrients & antioxidants, social media has woken up to dietary values of the cabbage

Srirupa.Ray@timesofindia.com

I'm going to cook a whole head of cabbage in a bath of coconut milk.... you want it to open up like a little lotus." Trust Padma Lakshmi to make the boring cabbage sound so gourmet. The Top Chef host recently posted a throwback Instagram video of her cooking this braised cabbage dish that gained viral fame last year. Now that Pinterest has crowned cabbage the 'it' vegetable of 2026, it's on bags, Burberry campaigns, and influencer timelines. Social media is bursting with healthy stir-fries, soups, and caramelised 'cabbage steaks'.

For a vegetable that's used as slang for dim-witted, is all the hype worth it?

"I'm glad cabbage is getting the attention," says Sneha Raje, clinical nutritionist at Pune-based health tech platform PreventiveHealth.ai. "Pinterest might have made it a trend, but World health Organisation (WHO) and Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Nutrition guidelines have long stressed on fibre-rich foods. Cabbage fits the bill perfectly. It's affordable and brings a host of micronutrients into everyday diets."

Krish Ashok, author of 'Masala Lab: The Science of Indian Cooking', hates the term 'superfood' but says cabbage should have always been celebrated as one. Known for busting food myths on social media, Ashok isn't surprised that cabbage took a long time coming. "Cruciferous vegetables are always a healthy choice for their nutrient density. The more hipster kale and Brussels sprouts were trending only a decade ago. Funny thing, the US economy is in such bad shape that, this time, the only cruciferous vegetable they have found worthy is literally the cheapest one."

Cabbage, kale, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower and broccoli stem from the same *Brassica oleracea*, a wild mustard plant that's been artificially selected and modified by humans over centuries, he explains. "When Romans selected its terminal leaf buds, it became cabbage. The flower stocks became broccoli, the unopened flowers, cauliflower. All of them are insanely nutritious," he says.

But what makes us turn up our noses at the very mention of cabbage? Ashok says it's the pungent smell and taste, owing to sulphur compounds typical to crucifers. But these very compounds, called glucosinolates, are what make the cabbage so healthy. "Glucosinolates like glucobrassicin and sinigrin — which convert to bioactive compounds when cabbage is cut — act as antioxidants and support detoxification. Glucobrassicin-derived compounds like indole-3-carbinol also help with healthy estrogen metabolism," Raje points out.

Overcooking spoils its food value. "Prolonged boiling increases nutrient loss. Quick stir-frying or steaming for 5 to 7 minutes retains all its vitamin C, folate, and glucosinolates. Cook cabbage with little or no water, so that it's tender but with a slight crunch," adds Raje.

Cabbage is low-calorie, nearly fat-free and big on fibre. With fibremaxxing being followed as a health hack, is cabbage just what our colon needs to stay healthy? That would be a bit of a stretch, laughs Dr Pavan Dhoble, a gastroenterologist at P D Hinduja Hospital, Mahim. "Cabbage takes care of a good part of one's daily fibre needs, improves stool bulk, eases constipation and flatulence. Cabbage alone, however, cannot maintain colon health," he says.

Its polyphenols are also powerful antioxidants that cut inflammation. Indians mostly eat the green variety, but red and purple ones are equally healthy. "Red and purple cabbage gets its colour from anthocyanins (a polyphenol) that protect the heart and gut barrier. It's crunchier and is shredded raw for salads," says Dr Prachi Patil, head, digestive diseases and clinical nutrition at Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai. "Cabbage heals the gut lining and reduces stomach ulcers," adds Gurgaon-based gut health coach Smriti Kochar.

Fermented cabbage is especially healthy. "Lacto-fermentation produces lactic acid bacteria that work wonders for gut microbial diversity and digestion. Sauerkraut (German dish) and kimchi (Korean) show this. In India, while less common, cabbage can be included in pickling, providing similar probiotic potential when naturally fermented," says Dr Dhoble.

Cabbage has always been a kitchen staple across India, whether it's aloo gobi, pakoras and steamed wadis with gram flour, koshimbir (raw cabbage salad), poriyal/thoran (stir-fried with coconut) or stuffed into parathas, and street-side Indian 'Chinese' dishes such as gobi Manchurian, momos, and spring rolls. And it will always be around in Indian cooking, irrespective of passing trends, believes Dr Patil. "The trend may help raise awareness about its benefits on a wider scale."

WHAT MAKES IT YUM FOOD FOR THE BODY?

1. Polyphenols, sulphur compounds reduce inflammation, cell damage, protect heart, regulate blood sugar, and improve working memory
2. Insoluble fibre adds stool bulk, helps with bowels. Delayed gastric emptying aids weight loss. Prebiotic fibre feeds good bacteria
3. Has probiotic potential when fermented, helps form short chain fatty acids that protect colon
4. Has potassium that helps control BP. Plant sterols bind to bile acids, lower lipids, while Vitamin K helps with bone density

Nutrients In Cabbage

Vitamins & minerals: Vit C, K, and A (trace), folate (vit B9), potassium, calcium, manganese, & magnesium

- **Carbs, calories & fat:** Low
- **Fibre:** High (2.5g/100g)

But eat with caution if...

- You have thyroid issues. Don't have too much raw cabbage, use iodised salt
- You are on anticoagulants, as cabbage helps with blood clotting
- If you have irritable bowel syndrome or kidney conditions

> Prolonged boiling increases nutrient loss. Quick stir-frying or steaming for 5 to 7 minutes retains all its vitamin C, folate, and glucosinolates. Cook cabbage with little or no water, so that it's tender but with a slight crunch
>
> **Sneha Raje,** CLINICAL NUTRITIONIST

> Cabbage, cauliflower, kale and broccoli stem from Brassica oleracea, a wild mustard plant that's been modified over centuries. When Romans selected its terminal leaf buds, it became cabbage. The flower stocks became broccoli
>
> **Krish Ashok,** AUTHOR

TOI HEALTH+

MLA quits as TMC minority cell chief, joins Ritabrata camp

Kolkata/Malda: Bengal MLA Mosarraf Hossain resigned Sunday as state president of Trinamool Congress's minority cell, report **Dwaipayan Ghosh & Subhro Maitra**. He said at a press meet that he had "close ties" with the Ritabrata Banerjee-led faction, while also praising CM Suvendu Adhikari and expressing a desire to work for the state's development "under his guidance".

With Hossain's exit, all five TMC MLAs from North Dinajpur have joined the rebel camp. "Since the change of govt, it has not been possible to work as before. In the interest of the people and for the sake of development, I have spoken with leader of the opposition Ritabrata and chosen to align myself with him," said the Itahar MLA.

Hossain said he had sent his resignation letter to TMC headquarters. The party has not yet responded.

The MLA praised Adhikari, saying: "The CM once served as our party's observer for North Dinajpur. Since then, we have shared a very cordial and positive relationship."

Grid bottlenecks hamper green energy expansion

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New Delhi: India's rapid renewable energy expansion is running into a serious bottleneck, with delays in transmission infrastructure forcing large-scale curtailment of green power.

According to Ember, an energy think-tank, transmission constraints accounted for nearly two-thirds of the 470 gigawatt-hours of renewable energy curtailed in first quarter of 2026. The problem has become particularly acute in Rajasthan and Gujarat, which host the bulk of India's utility-scale solar and wind projects. Of the country's total installed power generation capacity of 543 GW, solar energy accounts for 154 GW and wind, 56 GW.

The mismatch between pace of renewable energy deployment and transmission readiness is emerging as one of the biggest operational risks for sector.

"India's renewable energy curtailment arising from transmission constraints is beginning to reach materially significant levels," said Duttatreya Das, energy analyst at Ember. He said the system would eventually have to move away from "generation-led transmission planning" towards a model where generation and transmission are planned together.

Representative image

The problem has become particularly acute in Rajasthan and Gujarat which host the bulk of India's utility-scale solar and wind projects

An official from the ministry of new and renewable energy, acknowledging that curtailment was becoming a concern, said govt was working on solutions. Large-scale deployment of battery energy storage systems and grid-forming inverters would be crucial for integrating renewable energy into the grid. "We are in regular touch with power ministry and Central Electricity Regulatory Commission for enhancement of transmission capacity," the official said.

As per Ember, India has achieved only about 80% of its annual transmission targets over past five years, leading to a growing backlog. For FY27 alone, the requirement for additional interstate transmission capacity has been estimated at over 61,000 circuit kilometres.

The delays are driven by right-of-way disputes, land acquisition hurdles, forest clearances and supply constraints for critical high-voltage transmission equipment, the report noted.

More Worry, Less Action

As energy landscape evolves, EE curriculum remains rooted in legacy systems, prompting a redesign centred on interdisciplinarity and industry relevance

Electrical Engineering curriculum needs a green reset

I

Growing importance of S and G in ESG

Corporate transparency, responsibility towards stakeholders and ethical use of technology are essential strategies for success, writes **Prof Mahadev Jumnal**

T

Circular Economy

Strategic Assignment

Sustainability is the real differentiator for new architects

We need experts in energy simulation who can accurately predict a structure's power consumption before construction, write **Prof Rachna Mathani** and **Prof Sahaj Rachchhadi**

S

Building Skills

Pragati Path@ 12 Varsh

Vishwas ke, Vikas ke, Jan-kalyan ke

Building bright beginnings:

UP's Basic Education transformation

Basic education in Uttar Pradesh has undergone a significant transformation through sustained government-led initiatives aimed at improving access, quality and infrastructure. Increased enrolment, the successful mainstreaming of out-of-school children, and the provision of free educational support have helped bring more children into the learning system. Large-scale infrastructure upgrades, smart classrooms, teacher training programmes and enhanced digital resources have strengthened the learning environment. Special emphasis on girls' education, inclusive education and nutritional support have further improved educational outcomes. In addition, focused efforts on foundational literacy and numeracy, regular learning assessments, improved school management systems and greater community participation have contributed to better student engagement and academic performance.

PICS: DIPR, UP GOVT

FROM BLACKBOARD TO SMARTBOARD: THE DIGITAL CLASSROOM REVOLUTION

- Expanding school enrolment and bringing out-of-school children back to classrooms in Parishadiya Vidyalaya
- In the year 2024-25, 13.22 lakh and in 2025-26, 15.84 lakh children were enrolled
- In 2024-25, 7.73 lakh out-of-school children identified; 2.69 lakh admitted to class 1 and 5.04 lakh connected to mainstream after special training
- Every year, more than 1.30 crore students are given ₹1200 per student through DBT for uniform, shoes-socks, sweaters, bags and stationery
- Free textbooks and workbooks for all students from Classes 1 to 8
- Under Operation Kayakalp, 1.32 lakh schools covered; saturation increased from 36% (2017-18) to 96.30%. Process of providing 3.42 lakh desk-benches. Decision to establish two Mukhyamantri Model Composite Vidyalaya in all 75 districts
- Decision to establish new residential girls' schools in those development blocks where Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya is not present
- Special plan to develop all primary schools as smart schools
- 150 Mukhyamantri Model Composite Vidyalaya (pre-primary to Class 12) are being established in 75 districts, land selection completed for 141
- 75 Mukhyamantri Abhyudaya Composite Vidyalaya (pre-primary to Class 8) developed with modern facilities
- In 2024-25, 4.53 lakh teachers received FLN-based training, while in 2025-26, 4.33 lakh teachers underwent the same training
- Libraries established in 1.32 lakh schools; smart classes and ICT labs established/in process in thousands of schools
- Tablets distributed to 2.61 lakh teachers
- Notable improvement in language and mathematical proficiency in National Achievement Survey (PARAKH-2024)
- 746 schools operational, upgraded from Class 6 to 12; 87,647 girls enrolled
- Smart class, ICT lab, self-defence training (Rani Lakshmibai programme), Meena Manch, sports promotion, etc
- Disability certificate, assistive devices (with ALIMCO support), escort allowance and scholarship through DBT
- 1,722 schools (1,565 basic, 157 secondary) covered in the state
- Arrangement of smart class, ICT lab and sports material
- In 2024-25, 1.65 lakh and in 2025-26, 1.85 lakh children were given free admission in private schools
- Publication of 'Shodh Sangam' journal, 210 research work
- 'Udgum' book and portal developed
- 27 DIETs being developed as Centres of Excellence
- 1.42 lakh schools covering 1.52 crore students
- Weekly distribution of milk and fruits to school children
- 3.63 lakh cooks are given ₹2,000 per month honorarium; covered under Ayushman Bharat
- Increase in the honorarium of 1.68 lakh Shiksha Mitras and part-time instructors. Shiksha Mitras now receive ₹18,000 and instructors ₹17,000 per month, effective from April 1, 2026

Patiala boy ditches conventional degree to focus on exam preparation, secures AIR 1 in CA Finals

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In Pursuit of Inequality?

CITY CITY BANG BANG

SANTOSH DESAI

It is assumed that everyone believes that inequality is a serious problem that needs to be tackled. People may disagree about how to do so, but there is little disagreement about the fact that it is a goal being pursued.

What if that is not true? What if, regardless of what we profess, we are not seeking to reduce inequality but to reconfigure it? This sounds absurd at first. Yet, if we look at our behaviour, we might see a different picture.

A society pursuing equality strives to make differences less visible and consequential. A society founded on hierarchy makes differences more visible. As a CMO in a remote district who carries their designation on their vehicle. Or a VIP who doesn't need to pay toll, and we have a hoarding announcing that. Far from trying to project equality, we revel in advertising hierarchy as an official instrument of policy.

Modern institutions otherwise seek to minimise the effect of differences. A queue is supposed to respect who came first, rather than the status of the person. A courtroom is meant to treat all people equally and not grant an overnight hearing because a celebrity is involved. A traffic signal is blind to who the person in the car is. A toll asks the same price from everyone.

These institutions are meant to operate as equality machines. They acknowledge that people are different but that those differences are temporarily irrelevant when it comes to some spaces.

There is no paucity of institutions in India. Our problem is with letting them function unhindered. In India, everything becomes liquid— queues are negotiable, rules are flexible, tolls have exemptions. The process is a function of who is involved. The concept of the impersonal struggles to exist.

We describe this issue in terms of corruption or the lack of civic sense. This is true, but only partially so. Beneath them lies something deeper: a persistent tendency to organise social life through hierarchy.

Indian society is relational and context-sensitive. Here, caste matters. Age matters. Family background matters. Education matters. Wealth matters. Profession matters. Influence matters. Which part of the city you live in matters. Which car you drive matters. Who you know matters. Which subject you study matters. Before people know what you think, they want to know where you belong. The real issue in India is that this relationality is arranged vertically. Everything eventually is part of a hierarchy.

So hierarchy keeps reappearing in new forms. Earlier hierarchy may have been signalled through ownership of land, a govt job or most importantly, caste. Today, its source may be wealth, proximity to power, neighbourhoods, social media visibility or the size of one's car. Caste, of course, continues. The content changes. The underlying logic remains remarkably stable.

It was believed that greater representation would change things. Get people who were earlier lower in the hierarchy in positions of power and things would change. But representation and transformation are not the same thing. New entrants often alter the composition of institutions far more successfully than they alter their operating logic. The idea of hierarchy doesn't change; we just have new people at the top. And they protect their position just as fiercely as the earlier lot. Which is why reservations might have helped some sections of society, but they have not dented the legitimacy of the idea of inequality.

Hierarchy in India is not just about power; it is an orienting device. It tells people where they stand. It clarifies obligations. A society organised around relationships needs mechanisms for locating individuals within those relationships. Hierarchy has historically performed that function. But of course, the price of using hierarchy as our map is that equality can never be our destination.

This is why many of our frustrations feel connected. Public services, civic behaviour, governance, corruption, access and accountability often appear to be separate problems. They may, in fact, be different expressions of the same underlying tension.

Each individual act of hierarchy seeking is a perfectly reasonable response to a system that has never made equality reliable enough to depend on. The implication is that the source of change cannot be by improving behaviour at the individual level or by raising civic consciousness. The only way is for equality to become structurally advantageous is by building institutions so robust that trusting them beats gaming them.

And here's where the problem lies. These institutions have not been designed to be robust because the people leading them have little incentive to do so. Doing so would make them lose the advantage they have by virtue of the position they occupy. Flexible rules give them room to manoeuvre; inviolable ones reduce them to the level of everyone else.

This is the closed loop that makes equality in India not merely difficult but structurally impossible. Once we fundamentally reject the idea of equal treatment, then no institution can build trust that they deliver equality. Building that trust would require our institutions to visibly shun favouring the powerful. This, in turn, needs the required political will from people who would have to sacrifice positional advantage to provide it.

This is the heart of the issue— at every point in that chain, the incentive runs the other way. Hierarchy is a self-maintaining equilibrium that equality cannot enter from outside. Any change would require leadership willing to sacrifice its advantages for an abstract ideal. The question is not whether such leadership exists. The question is whether a system organised around hierarchy would allow it to survive long enough to matter.

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Candidates say Biology was easy, Chemistry lengthy and difficult

Outages & Interruptions Also Reported

▶ Continued from page 1

Despite shortcomings, students from several centres, including those in Maharashtra, Delhi, UP and Odisha, reported that the NEET re-exam was better prepared

Pradhan reviewed inputs from command-and-control centres, from the ministry at the national level, 34 centrally funded higher education institutions in every state, and district collectorates, sources said.

The arrangements were part of a larger security and logistics grid — involving security and intelligence agencies, IAF to transport question papers, and ministries of railways, home affairs, defence, health and IT — put in place to eliminate lapses. The May 3 exam was cancelled after more than 120 questions allegedly overlapped with material circulated before the test. It triggered a CBI probe, and several people were arrested, including those who were on the paper-setting panel.

Security this time extended beyond protecting the printed paper: the question bank was larger, there were more paper-setters and restrictions, ensuring nobody could get to know or see the final paper. Moreover, the experts who prepared and moderated the papers worked under 'lockdown-like' conditions, with heavy restrictions on gadgets, including mobile phones. The govt also restricted access to Telegram app until June 22 over concerns it may be used for cheating.

Candidates offered mixed assessments after taking the test. Biology was described as easy-to-moderate, while several found physics calculation-heavy, and chemistry lengthy and difficult. Students from several exam centres, including those in Maharashtra, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha, reported that NEET centres were better prepared for the re-exam. However, some candidates complained about power outages, inadequate knowledge among invigilators, and disturbances during the exam despite NTA's directions to minimise interruptions once the test began.

After the exam, question papers, attendance records and OMR sheets were secured and moved under prescribed protocols.

Officials at all levels also monitored social media and messaging platforms following a series of fake paper-leak claims and attempts to defraud candidates. NTA launched a verified WhatsApp channel and repeatedly warned candidates against people claiming to possess question papers or answer keys.

PM waits at airport until exam begins

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi on Sunday delayed his travel to his residence after arriving at IGI airport from Kolkata to ensure that no candidate appearing in the NEET re-examination faced any inconvenience due to traffic restrictions.

People aware about this said that after arriving at IGI airport around 1.15 pm, Modi chose to wait at the airport instead of immediately leaving for his residence at Lok Kalyan Marg.

Modi left for his residence only after the exam commenced at 2 pm.

Meanwhile, railway ministry made changes to a programme to physically flag off an Amrit Bharat train between Khatipura in Rajasthan and Darbhanga in Bihar to avoid any inconvenience to students.

While the physical event was held in Ajmer, flag off from Darbhanga was done virtually with Bihar CM Samrat Choudhary and the local MP joining the event online.

Man on b'day outing, friend die as BMW 'at 251 kmph' crashes

Pradeep Gupta

Badlapur: A birthday celebration turned tragic when a speeding BMW crashed into a road divider and overturned on the underconstruction Mumbai-Delhi Expressway near Badlapur in the wee hours of Sunday, killing two youths and injuring their friend who was behind the wheel.

The impact was so severe that the car was reduced to a mangled heap of metal, with its engine found nearly 30m away. One of the victims was dismembered, while another was thrown nearly 30m away from the vehicle. Police are probing a social media post of one of deceased allegedly recorded moments before the crash of the BMW being driven at speeds of up to 251kmph.

The deceased were identified as Yogesh Negi (26), who was celebrating his birthday, and Rebecca Jacob (24), who lived in Bandra.

Biker killed by low-hanging power line

Bhopal: In a freak accident, a 35-year-old biker died after his neck got entangled in a low-tension (LT) power line that was hanging across a road in Madhya Pradesh's Maihar district early Sunday, exposing concerns over public safety hazards posed by damaged electricity infrastructure, reports **Amarjeet Singh**.

The incident occurred when Anil Kumar Patel was travelling on a motorcycle with his wife and nephew to a temple.

According to sources, an LT power line snapped from a jumper connection and was hanging low over the road. As Patel rode through the stretch, the wire got caught around his neck, causing severe injuries.

After Abu Dhabi row, aspirant sits for test; father in tears

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Abdullah Mohammad Talib with his father at a re-test centre in Nagpur Sunday

Nagpur: An emotional scene unfolded outside the NEET retest centre at Kendriya Vidyalaya in Nagpur's Ajni Sunday as Abdullah Mohammad Talib arrived to appear for the examination, a day after controversy erupted over his admit card showing an examination centre in Abu Dhabi instead of his preferred re-test centres in Vidarbha.

Moments after Abdullah cleared the security check and entered the examination hall, his father, Dr Talib, broke down while speaking to **TOI**. He said the examination was critical to his son's future and that the family had endured days of anxiety and uncertainty following the centre-allotment issue.

The 18-year-old, wearing a mask to avoid media attention, remained reluctant to appear for the examination until Sunday morning, he said.

"He finally agreed to take the exam around 10am. His morale had already been affected by the NEET paper leak controversy last month. Though he had prepared for the re-test, the admit card issue caused severe emotional distress. He was inconsolable when he saw Abu Dhabi listed as his examination centre and had to be given medication to calm him down," Dr Talib said.

"After the exam, we plan to take him on a holiday so that he can recover from the stress," he added.

Responding to NTA's claim that Abu Dhabi had been selected in the candidate's profile, Dr Talib alleged that there could have been unauthorised access to the account. "We believe the possibility of hacking or unauthorised changes to the profile should be investigated thoroughly," Dr Talib said.

Pradhan steps in to help injured girl appear in re-exam

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Shrishti Dubey

New Delhi: Multiple rib fractures, a major surgery, oxygen support and need for chest drain could not stop Shrishti Dubey from taking the NEET-UG re-examination on Sunday. A week after a serious road accident, the West Bengal candidate entered a specially prepared room at her Kolkata centre, determined not to lose the opportunity for which she had worked for years.

Shrishti met with the accident a week ago and underwent surgery. Still recovering and dependent on medical support, she told her parents that she wanted to take the examination. Her family then approached the authorities, seeking permission for her to write the paper on ground floor, in hospital clothes and with medical attachments, including the chest drain, in place.

The request eventually reached Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who spoke to Shrishti's parents and enquired about her condition. He asked NTA and local authorities to make every possible arrangement to ensure Shrishti could take the exam.

NTA, district administration, the examination centre and Shrishti's doctors worked together to prepare for Sunday. A separate room with suitable furniture was provided so that she could sit as comfortably as her injuries allowed. Medical and paramedical personnel remained available during the examination, while an ambulance stood outside for any emergency.

9 impersonators caught in Bihar

Patna: Nine impersonators appearing in place of registered candidates in NEET-UG re-examination were arrested at three centres in Bihar's Lakhisarai district Sunday. The fraud came to light after discrepancies in photographs and fingerprints were detected during document verification. "It is suspected that some of the arrested could be practising doctors or medical students," SDPO Shivam Kumar said.

When cheetah goes to school... on a Sunday!

Bhopal: A female cheetah from MP's Kuno National Park was spotted near a govt primary school in Dubera village of Sheopur's Vijaypur area on Sunday.

The cheetah, identified as CCB2, was first seen in farms near the village before moving through residential lanes and reaching the school. As news of the sighting spread, villagers gathered to watch the animal from a safe distance.

No injuries to people or livestock were reported. Residents said the cheetah appeared calm and moved through the area before heading back towards open land.

Videos of the cheetah moving through the village surfaced on social media. Forest officers said cheetahs occasionally move outside Kuno while exploring territory or following prey. Such sightings have become increasingly common since the launch of Project Cheetah. TNN

Burqa-clad candidate briefly stopped at exam centre in Rajasthan

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Jaipur/Ajmer: A NEET retest candidate wearing a burqa was briefly stopped Sunday but was later allowed into the exam centre in Rajasthan's Ajmer after her father showed officials a NTA rule permitting traditional dress following security checks by women personnel.

Kulsum Bano of Beawar said gate staff asked her to remove her burqa. She refused. "I was allowed to wear a burqa when I appeared for NEET exam on May 3, but they refused to give me entry this time," Kulsum told reporters.

Her father showed officials Rule 18 of NTA bulletin. It permits traditional dress if candidates are frisked by women security personnel. Officials contacted higher authorities, then cleared Kulsum's entry.

About 2.09 lakh candidates took the retest at 611 centres in Rajasthan. Security was tight across districts. Entry required biometric verification and frisking. Candidates could carry only a transparent water bottle, admit card, photograph and Aadhaar card. Pens were supplied inside.

Gates shut at 1.30pm. Latecomers were turned away.

Bharatpur installed jammers around all centres, disrupting mobile networks within roughly 300m. Shops within 100m were shut, except emergency services. Sikar imposed similar curbs, closing photocopy shops, e-Mitra centres and cyber cafes within 300m. Two BSF guards were posted at each centre, part of a 182-member BSF deployment across the district.

Kulsum's father showed officials at the exam centre Rule 18 of the NTA bulletin. It permits traditional dress if candidates are frisked by women security personnel. Exam centre officials contacted higher authorities, who then cleared Kulsum's entry

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
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No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 18/06/2026. The following e-Tenders can be accessed under the link **www.ireps.gov.in.** Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link **www.ireps.gov.in → login → E-Tender Stores/Supply.** Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information if any, **Dy. CMM/M-II/CLW/Chittaranjan, 9163340788 or AMM/M, 9163340706. Sl. No.; Tender No.; Brief Description of Item; Quantity; Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees); Tender Closing Date & Time (IST)** are as follows: **[1]; 75264009;** Ducting Assly. For WAG-9HC Loco, Cat. No.R/9/0061, as per Drg. / Specn. No.CLW/ MS/3/099, Alt. - 8 (As per Set Details attached). [**Warranty Period:** 120 Months after the date of delivery]; **500.00 sets;** ₹657490.00; **10/08/2026 at 11:00 AM. [2]; 75264007A;** Components of General Arrangement of Floor Ventilation Ducting for WAG-9HC Loco, as per Spec No. CLW/MS/3/154 Alt- 3 or latest (Category No R/9/0087) [**Warranty Period:** 30 Months after the date of delivery]; **333.00 sets;** ₹738320.00; **17/08/2026 at 11:00 AM. [3]; 75264052;** MS Fabricated Items (Small)-2 for WAG-9HC Loco / Category- Structural as per Drg.No. 1209-00.240-202 Alt.2; Drg No 1209-08.140-054 & Drg No 1209-08.140-055 Cat No. S/9/0082. [**Warranty Period:** 30 Months after the date of delivery]; **787.00 sets;** ₹287870.00; 20/08/2026 at 11:00 AM.
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CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
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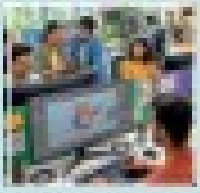
Aesthetic Evolution

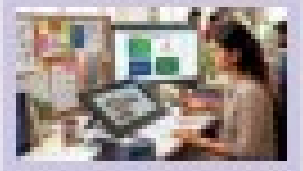
India's bid for global AVGC leadership faces roadblocks

Despite growing IP creation, Indian studios rely on backend outsourcing, limiting worldwide recognition



What Human Designers Offer That AI Can't

Indian design educators tackle opportunities for real-world experience, writes **Pooja Mishra**



Creators run media economy through Extended Reality

The growth in gaming, digital experiences and virtual production reflects a broader shift towards interactive and technology-driven content formats, writes Vishwas Devaiker

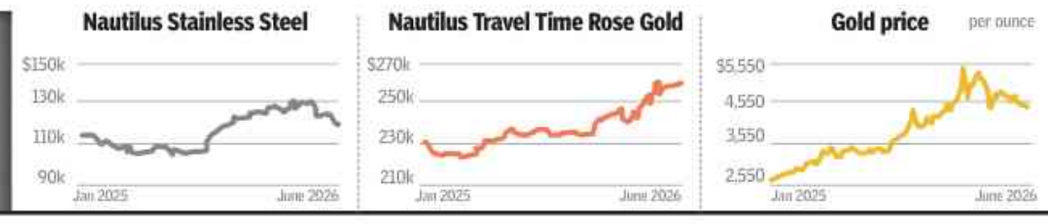
TIMES BUSINESS

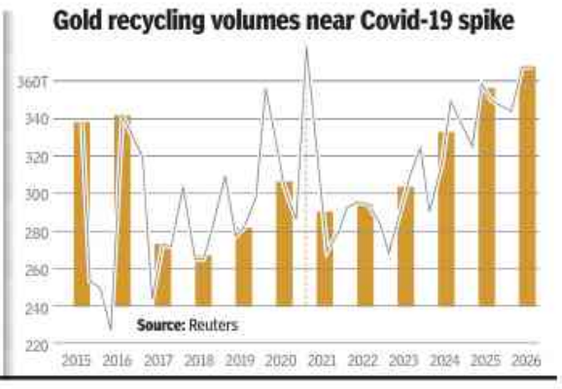
THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2026

Gold fever sends some vintage luxury watches to melting furnace

With gold prices near record highs struck in Jan, some classic watches are being melted down as the value of their metal content outstrips their resale worth. Used models by the likes of Omega and LVMH's TAG Heuer are most hit by the trend

Gold rally supports likes of Patek Philippe Nautilus' second hand valuation





Govt starts work on steps to increase domestic resilience

Aims To Reduce Vulnerabilities After Shocks Like W Asia War

Sidhartha@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Wiser from the experience of disruptions caused by the war in West Asia, govt departments have started work on a series of measures to increase domestic resilience and reduce vulnerabilities caused by shocks, whose frequency has increased in recent years.

From identifying 100-150 items for import substitution, to boosting the production of active pharamceutical ingredients and checking the entry of cheap shipments, ministries have initiated discussions and drawn up specific steps.

Energy is on top of the heap, with measures to increase the green hydrogen footprint, bolster solar and green energy, especially storage capacity being taken up on a war footing. The road map worked out at the PMO's behest is being implemented through ministries, with regular monitoring by top officials from Seva Teerth, officials told **TOI**.

The plan itself was worked out over eight to 10 weeks and came along with immediate steps to ensure that the economy is not hit by shortages, be it energy or other inputs and raw materials that come from West Asia.

FOCUS AREAS

Energy:
- Step up green energy, battery storage efforts
- Diversify import sources, push piped natural gas
- Oil, gas and critical mineral exploration to get a boost

Lower imports:
- Domestic manufacturing push for solar equipment & pharma inputs
- Checks on certain imports being examined
- PLIs being reviewed, some may be re-launched

Fertiliser:
- Efforts on to reduce imports
- Use coal gasification initiative to substitute for imported gas

In parallel, steps that address structural vulnerabilities in the medium- to long-term have been initiated, a high-ranking official said.

Some of the measures taken since the war broke out on Feb 28 are likely to continue, including diversified sourcing. For instance, there will be lower reliance on imported LPG and greater penetration of piped natural gas is being prioritised.

While a coal gasification initiative has been approved by the Union cabinet, govt intends to channelise some of this gas to fertiliser plants to reduce imports. A senior official said six-seven projects are going to be pushed aggressively in addition to ones under implementation.

The petroleum ministry is also expected to announce measures as part of a plan to step up focus on exploration of oil and gas within the country. A similar push is also expected in the case of rare earth and critical mineral, where an MoU involving Assam and Nagaland is among the initial steps.

And, ethanol blending is expected to be stepped up, albeit in a calibrated fashion without aggressively pushing for it, officials said. EVs, especially for public transport and long-distance trucking, are also expected to be given a boost.

On export front also govt is keen to derisk and reduce dependence on a few geographies after the tariff turbulence faced by Indian business in the wake of US actions last year. Principal secretary Shaktikanta Das, commerce secretary Rajesh Agrawal and foreign secretary Vikram Misri have held detailed consultations with missions across the world on the issue as India also seeks to be part of multiple global value chains.

The commerce and industry ministry is working on the strategy to reduce dependence on import of over 100 items, officials said, adding, focus on feasibility of domestic production is being examined. In some cases, use of tools, such as minimum import price to check cheap imports from China, is being examined.

There is a review of the PLI scheme. An analysis is being done by NITI Aayog and IIM Ahmedabad and learn from failure of some of them, such as advanced chemistry cell and battery manufacturing and build on success of electronics, pharma and white goods.

After initial rush, semaglutide mkt saddled with ₹100cr excess stock

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New Delhi: The much-hyped weight-loss and semaglutide therapy market has hit an early speed bump. Sluggish sales of semaglutide therapies in May have raised fears of inventory-led losses, with industry estimates pegging the value of excess stock in the trade channel at around Rs 100 crore, sources told **TOI**.

> There is significant inventory overhang in market, with stockists and wholesalers holding nearly 50-60 days of GLP-1 (semaglutide) stock. Sales in May were slower than anticipated, leading channel partners to pause fresh purchases from manufacturers until existing stocks are liquidated
> —AN OFFICIAL

At present, stockists and wholesalers are holding 50-60 days of inventory, well above the normal 30-45 days, and have stopped fresh procurement from pharmaceutical companies until existing stocks are cleared, they added. The strong growth witnessed in the Rs 2,000-crore obesity therapy market in April lost steam in May, with month-on-month (m-o-m) value growth slowing to 6% and unit growth at 12%, according to the latest data from market research firm Pharmarack.

In comparison, the market had surged 50% month-on-month in value terms and 88% in volumes in April, following a flood of cheaper generic semaglutide launches after the drug went off-patent on March 20. The market witnessed a rapid influx of generic semaglutide brands from players, including Torrent, Sun Pharma and Dr Reddy's, following the patent expiry.

Rajiv Singhal, general secretary AIOCD (All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists) said: "There is significant inventory overhang in the market, with stockists and wholesalers currently holding nearly 50-60 days of GLP-1 (semaglutide) stock. Sales in May were slower than anticipated, leading channel partners to pause fresh purchases from manufacturers until existing stocks are liquidated. The inventory in the trade channel could be worth close to Rs 100 crore". AIOCD represents over 12 lakh chemists and stockists across the country.

Meanwhile, weight-loss shot Mounjaro (tirzepatide) marketed by Eli Lilly continued to be the largest selling therapy in the pharma market during May as well, with sales up by 12% at Rs 136 crore. Overall, the Rs 2.5 lakh crore organised pharma retail grew nearly 11% during the month, buoyed largely by chronic therapies.

Both semaglutide and tirzepatide belong to the GLP-1 (glucagon-like peptide-1) receptor agonists class, used for the management of type 2 diabetes and obesity.

Industry executives said the moderation in sales after the initial surge may partly be linked to govt advisories and prescribing restrictions around GLP-1 therapies. The guidelines announced in April stipulate that these medicines should be prescribed only by qualified specialists.

Japan PM, 50 top biz leaders to visit India next month

New Delhi: Suzuki Motor President Toshihiro Suzuki and top executives of trading giant Itochu will be among the business leaders of 50 Japanese companies accompanying Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi for the India-Japan annual summit, scheduled for the first week of July at Assam's Guwahati.

The Japanese business delegation is expected to focus on investment opportunities, industrial cooperation and supply chain partnerships, according to a report in Nikkei Asia. This will be Prime Minister Takaichi's first visit to India since taking office in October 2025.

On June 13, Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the state was preparing to welcome a "powerful global leader" next month, without naming the visiting dignitary.

The visit to Guwahati is expected to give a booster shot to the expanding collaboration between India and Japan in the semiconductor industry at a time when Assam is also emerging as a hub for semiconductor production.

Economic security covering semiconductors, critical minerals, artificial intelligence, emerging technologies and information and communications technology is a key element of the India-Japan strategic partnership. IANS

TOI IN THE CLASSROOM

How Life Cycle Funds Work And Who They Are Best Suited For

Mutual fund companies are gearing up to launch life cycle funds, a new category of global-focused products, with Zerodha Mutual Fund and ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund already filing draft scheme documents with Sebi

Invesco Mutual Fund
An investor education and awareness initiative

For Know Your Customer (KYC) guidelines along with the documentary requirements and procedure for change of address, phone number, bank details, etc., please visit the Education and Guidance section on www.invescomutualfund.com. Investor should deal with only SEBI registered Mutual Funds, details of which can be verified under "Intermediaries/Market Infrastructure Institutions" on https://www.sebi.gov.in/index.html. For any grievance / complaint, please call us on 1800-209-0007 or write to us at mfservices@invescoindia.com. Alternatively, complaints can be registered on the SEBI SCORES Portal at https://scores.sebi.gov.in

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

What Are Life Cycle Funds, How They Work?

Life cycle funds are a new category of mutual funds introduced by Sebi in Feb 2026 that automatically adjust their asset allocation as a pre-defined target year approaches. They follow a glide-path strategy, starting with higher allocation to growth-oriented assets such as equities and gradually shifting toward relatively safer assets such as debt and money market instruments. The objective is to reduce portfolio risk as investors move closer to a financial goal. For instance, if the fund targets retirement or a child's education, investments gradually become more conservative over time.

Where Do Life Cycle Funds Invest?

Life cycle funds can invest across multiple asset classes, including equities, debt securities, gold, and silver ETFs (Exchange-Traded Funds), Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs). The allocation is gradually adjusted over time, typically reducing equity exposure and increasing debt exposure as the target investment horizon approaches. This strategy aims to capture long-term growth while minimizing market volatility risks closer to the goal.

Who Should Invest In These Funds?

These funds are best suited for investors pursuing long-term goals with a definable timeline, such as retirement, a child's education, or wealth accumulation. They are particularly suited for investors who prefer a hands-off investment approach, as the fund manager automatically rebalances the portfolio over time.

Risks Involved With LC Funds

The pre-defined glide path may not suit every investor's risk appetite or financial circumstances. Returns can be affected by equity-market volatility in the early years and interest-rate movements in the debt portion later on. Some experts also argue that a fixed glide path may not be optimal in changing market conditions. Investors should therefore assess whether the fund's asset-allocation schedule aligns with their investment objectives and risk profile. Investors should check how the fund gradually shifts from equities to debt as it nears the target year. Sebi has prescribed exit loads of up to 3%. — SACHIN KUMAR

Markets to take cue from US-Iran talks, FII activity this week

New Delhi: Movement on Dalal Street will hinge on the outcome of US-Iran talks, oil prices and trading activity of foreign investors, analysts said. "Investor attention is likely to remain firmly focused on developments surrounding the US-Iran peace process. Crude oil prices will remain a key variable, with continued stability supporting India's macroeconomic outlook, while any deterioration in West Asia relations could reignite volatility," Ponmudi R, CEO — Enrich Money, said. AGENCIES

Dalmia Bharat plans to raise ₹4,000cr

New Delhi: Dalmia Bharat is planning to raise up to Rs 4,000 crore through various instruments to support its growth plans, as it targets expanding its manufacturing capacity to 110-130 million tonnes per annum by FY31 through a mix of acquisitions, greenfield and brownfield projects. The country's fourth-largest cement maker has a significant presence across eastern, northeastern and southern India. AGENCIES

Goods exports up 15% in 2-and-half mths of '26-27

USTR Greer To Land Today For Trade Talks

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Amid the West Asia conflict, goods exports rose nearly 15% during the first two-and-a-half months of the current financial year, sustaining the momentum seen during April.

"Even now, if we see April, May and 14 days of June. I have data until June 14, it (exports growth) is 15%," commerce and industry minister **Piyush Goyal** said during an interaction with chartered accountants in Mumbai. Aided by strong oil exports, in the wake of high prices of crude and petroleum products, exports have seen a strong growth and Goyal expects that to continue, driven by the trade agreements being signed.

"UK FTA will be operational from July 15. Wherever you work, whichever sector you are associated with, tell them how much benefit will come from these things. Now with almost zero duty, almost the entire Europe market will be open for us. EU's FTA will be signed by Dec and will be effective by Feb-March. The one with Switzerland, Norway etc is already effective since Oct."

He said that next in line is the US trade deal, with US Trade Representative Jaimeson Greer landing in the Capital on Monday for talks on Tuesday and Wednesday in what is seen as a move to keep things ready.

The additional tariffs of 10% imposed by the Trump administration, after the earlier "reciprocal tariffs" were termed illegal by the US Supreme Court, are due to expire next month and a deal is expected to help roll out the new tariffs, which are likely to be based on section 301 investigations launched by USTR against India and host of other countries.

Goyal said during his meeting with PM Narendra Modi, Canada PM Mark Carney has indicated his govt's keenness to conclude talks for a bilateral trade deal this year, while Kenya has shown an interest in an FTA with India. Govt is expected to soon start talks with South African Customs Union for a trade agreement, first one with Africa. Since getting in FTA mode after not joining RCEP, trade bloc led by China, govt has signed a raft of pacts, mostly with developed countries.

Depositors await clarity on leverage

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Reserve Bank of India's sweeping overhaul of FCNR(B) deposit rules has triggered intense interest among non-resident investors, but a lack of clarity on leveraged structures has left banks and high-net-worth individuals in a wait-and-watch mode even as flyers on social media promise 13.83% return to NRIs.

FCNR(B) DEPOSITS

NO FAQS YET
- **RBI is yet to come out with a FAQ** on the scheme although it has asked banks to provide details of daily collections
- **Concern among some bankers** is that with Gulf ceasefire being announced and big ticket ECBs from PSUs on the cards, there may not be a need to go overboard with deposit mobilisations

The maths behind the 13.83% projection is that the depositor will get up to 6% return on deposits while they can use their initial deposits as a security and borrow money at 5.4%. Factoring in the costs of availing a loan, the depositor can repeat the process nine times (i.e depositing $1 million and borrowing up to $9 million)

SBI, did not respond to query on comments on Sunday. RBI is yet to come out with a FAQ (frequently asked questions) on the scheme although it has asked banks to provide details of daily collections. The concern among some bankers is that with West Asia ceasefire being announced and big ticket ECBs from PSUs on the cards, there may not be a need to go overboard with deposit mobilisations.

The central bank recently introduced a series of measures aimed at attracting large foreign currency inflows and shoring up reserves, effectively removing longstanding constraints that had kept FCNR(B) returns modest.

Under a forex swap facility announced on June 8, RBI offered a dollar-rupee par-swap window that absorbs hedging costs for fresh deposits of three to five years, eliminating the typical 3–3.5% annual forward premium burden on banks.

In parallel, RBI exempted such deposits from cash reserve ratio and statutory liquidity ratio requirements through its Second Amendment Directions, freeing up bank balance sheets for deployment.

This was followed by a June 18 notification scrapping the interest rate ceiling for these tenors, allowing banks to price FCNR(B) deposits without the earlier cap linked to benchmark swap rates plus a spread, with the relaxation valid until Sept 30, 2026.

Why IT firms are moving beyond token maxxing

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Bengaluru: As enterprises race to deploy GenAI, a new challenge is emerging for IT firms: token maxxing.

Tokens—the units consumed whenever large language models process information—have become the fundamental currency of AI. But after an initial wave of experimentation, IT services companies are increasingly warning that relentless token consumption without measurable business outcomes could become the industry's next cost problem.

> Tokens are an input to delivery, not a measure of value, and token consumption is simply a cost signal, tracked for discipline, licence governance and capacity planning. When token consumption is treated as the primary metric, costs scale linearly with demand without a corresponding return in business outcomes
> —Arumugam Kumaradassan
> AI INDUSTRIALISATION HEAD, COGNIZANT

Token maxxing treats AI consumption as a measure of productivity, pushing employees and enterprises to use increasing amounts of compute and tokens. The term gained currency in Silicon Valley, where the double "xx" in "maxxing"—borrowed from internet and gaming slang—denotes aggressive optimisation. As enterprises move from pilots to large-scale deployments, IT firms are increasingly focused on linking token usage to business value rather than raw consumption. Arumugam Kumaradassan, vice-president and head of AI industrialisation and enterprise IT automation at Cognizant, said, "Tokens are an input to delivery, not a measure of value, and token consumption is simply a cost signal, tracked for discipline, licence governance and capacity planning. When token consumption is treated as the primary metric, costs scale linearly with demand without a corresponding return in business outcomes."

Kumaradassan said the company has implemented metering and value-linkage capabilities that connect token consumption to business workflows and outcomes.

"As the industry moves towards outcome-based models, token spending will reveal the cost of achieving those outcomes," he said.

At Happiest Minds, executive vice-chairman Joseph Anantharaju said the company is developing capabilities for token metering and optimisation as enterprises scale agentic AI deployments.

"I think that's going to be very important—the ability to meter it," he said.

The company is also evaluating outcome-based commercial models that combine software, agents, platforms and AI consumption.

"The outcomes that customers want can be delivered through a model that combines the solution, token consumption and the number of agents deployed," Anantharaju said.

The debate is becoming increasingly relevant as AI projects move from pilots to production. "One of the most important currencies in an agentic AI transformation are tokens. We are now looking at our token consumption," said Salesforce chief digital officer Vala Afshar. "We're also looking very closely at how much of these tokens actually automate tasks by agents, because it's wasteful to just spend tokens unless you're creating value at the speed of need." Yet technology providers are becoming wary of turning token consumption into a pricing model.

Mphasis CEO Nitin Rakesh said customers increasingly bear variable token costs as usage expands. "What we are pricing is the economic outcome. There is a base price that you (client) will pay me, and the rest will be linked to the outcome I can drive," he said.

Amber eyes 20% of Oppo India volumes & 40% value addition

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Chennai: Amber Group plans a rapid ramp-up of commercial production of Oppo branded smartphones with 8 million units by the 2028 financial year, which is roughly about 20% of Oppo's India volume. It plans to ramp it up to 15 million in FY29, with trial orders beginning by the end of the current fiscal.

Amber Group joined Indian electronics manufacturing companies venturing into the mobile segment through a partnership with Chinese brands. It entered a collaboration agreement with Oppo Mobiles India on Thursday to make smartphones for Oppo, Realme and premium brand OnePlus. The company plans to sub-lease Oppo's existing facility in the country, thereby escaping press note 3 approval, which put tighter restrictions on Chinese FDI, that's holding the Dixon-Vivo joint venture.

> We expect to start with assembly and surface mount tech and increase domestic value addition in 6 years, tapping its existing strengths in electronics components
> JASBIR SINGH
> Executive chairman, CEO, Amber Enterprises

MOBILE MANUFACTURING

Speaking on an analyst call on Saturday, Jasbir Singh, executive chairman and CEO of Amber Enterprises India, said they expect to start with assembly and surface mount technology and increase the domestic value addition to 35%-40% in six years, tapping its existing strengths in electronics components, compared to the current 10%-12% local value addition. "We have a clear roadmap for gradually increasing value addition beyond PCBs, which would increase the margins and total addressable market size," he said. When asked about revised mobile PLI benefitting value addition, he said that though details remain speculative at the moment, Amber is already executing its value-addition roadmap and Oppo India will actively help bring more global component suppliers to the country.

While the mobile assembly is a low-margin business, Amber said it's part of balancing existing value-added, high-margin business with high volume, asset-light business and reducing the seasonal concentration inherent in its core room air conditioner (RAC) business. It estimates about Rs 50 crore capex, focusing on setting up basic assembly and SMT.

India's deep-tech future will be shaped by scale and societal impact

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CONTRAPUNTO

By a continuing process of inflation, govt can confiscate, secretly and unobserved, an important part of the wealth of their citizens

– JOHN MAYNARD KEYNES

Not A NEET Solution

Tighter security is no reform. NTA needs overhaul. What has been done to address its shortcomings?

Op NEET-UG retest was, for all purposes, successfully executed. The bandobast was epic. CRPF, CISF, Air Force, state and local police forces, AI-based monitoring, 1.4L CCTVs, 51,000+ signal jammers, 2L personnel, multi-agency surveillance (offline & cyber), GPS-enabled fleet, lockdown facilities, a messaging app ban. A 'whole-of-govt' approach to conduct a three-hour exam for medical aspirants. Nearly 23L NEET-UG candidates, mostly 17 to 20 years old, were frisked and exposed to intensive biometric scrutiny. Imagine the afternoon queues in high noon at these temperatures. It will be instructive to know the per capita cost of this gargantuan crisis-level security exercise. What this one-day retest cost, in simple money terms, is the tangible cost of NTA's multiple failures, NEET the largest. Three points.

- There is no measure of the mental agony of the retest. Forced to sit the exam all over again imposed an immense emotional and psychological burden on candidates and families, who have stretched themselves, and their finances, taken loans, sold gold, put plans on hold, for their ward to sit this one test. Twelve students took their own lives in the 37-day period since NEET was cancelled. There is no measure for such tragedy. There is no grievance mechanism, even less accountability. As noted earlier, shuffling bureaucrats is no answer.

- Tighter security also does not address the real problems with the NEET design itself – the exam that decides who will be India's future doctors. NEET is poorly designed and needs overhaul – centralisation and a single yearly attempt jeopardise a full batch when the system glitches, or there is fraud. NEET tests more coaching preparedness than merit; it has simply strengthened the coaching industry. It disadvantages state board students, as school-leaving marks are redundant in deciding a NEET rank, and central boards are more aligned to NEET's syllabus. It has fully centralised the admission process, thereby ignoring state-level specific requirements for doctors.
- As for NTA, how many exams can realistically be secured through extraordinary measures and vigilance? There has been a real cost in managing the retest within 38 days. Is this sustainable? Certainly not.

The real question, therefore, is whether any meaningful progress has been made in addressing the structural flaws that plague NTA. What measures have been taken to address the underlying pattern that leads to institutional failure? It all remains unresolved – NTA's capacity, accountability, transparency, governance. That is the failure that no amount of security can cover.

Smell Test

Spurious nutritional claims on packaged food can hurt consumers' health. FSSAI must stay on top of them

A 250ml cup of sugarcane juice can naturally contain over 5 teaspoons of sugar. If you add mango pulp to this juice, and sell the combo as mango juice "with no added sugar", are you being economical with the truth? That's one of the questions India's food safety regulator, FSSAI, is looking into. Among other flags it has raised this time are foods labelled "natural", "healthy", "heart-friendly", etc, without evidence.

But the problem with FSSAI's campaign against false or misleading health labels is its whack-a-mole approach. It must spot specific product-level violations, and then investigate them individually. When there are thousands of brands of biscuits alone, this approach is too slow to keep up with misselling across the industry. So, what's needed are clear guidelines about ingredients and claims that cannot be questioned, or exploited as loopholes.

In a country with over 100mn diabetics, and more than twice as many overweight or obese, health consciousness is on the rise. That's why selling processed food on spurious claims of wholesomeness is growing. Even the West isn't immune to such tricks, although it's got a handle on them now. Back in 2006, sodas, chips, ice cream and cookies were being sold as "100% natural" in US. One pitch, especially, raised eyebrows: 7Up claiming to be a natural drink, despite containing high-fructose corn syrup.

Health should always be non-negotiable, and when it comes to food, consumers must have a clear picture of ingredients and their effects. That's why red herrings – for example, ultraprocessed cereal with high amounts of fat, salt and sugar, but labelled "gluten-free" – should be strictly no-no. False halos, based on unverifiable claims, should be pulled down. While clear guidelines are a first step in this direction, FSSAI should work with bona fide activists and influencers trying to expose the food industry's malpractices. This fight needs more hands.

Fishy geopolitics

London chippy is perfect example of how to run a tricky biz

Jug Suraiya

In London, which I'm visiting, I witness a demonstration of how to conduct geopolitics.

Geopolitics happens when geography comes into collision with politics, and politics gets into a head-butting contest with geography.

Geopolitics can indeed be a fishy business. And the geopolitics I see in play in London's Camden Town is truly associated with piscine enterprise, literally speaking and not metaphorically.

It has nothing to do with the US-Iran conflict. Nor is it connected with Russia-Ukraine hostilities. The geopolitics I come across in Camden is the exact opposite of conflict, based as it is on cordial cooperation, and a willingness to get along with each other for the benefit of all concerned, obstructionist barriers of politics and geography be damned.

This heartening model of geopolitics is the Camden Chippy, a cheerful, warm and friendly eatery specialising in Fish and Chips, that culinary combo which – sprinkled with salt and liberally doused with tangy vinegar, and traditionally served wrapped in old editions of *The Times* newspaper, or *The Guardian*, depending on the purveyor's ideological inclination – was once the celebrated staple of British fare before being ousted from its pride of Plaice by chicken tikka masala.

secondopinion

Changing tastes, and the hard work involved in running a successful chippy – the colloquial term for Fish and Chips takeaways – have made such establishments almost as rare a sight as a City gent togged up in bowler hat and pinstriped trousers.

Chippydom is a tough business, involving rising at 5am to get to the fish market before the competition snaffles the best and freshest catch of the day. The few chippies that do survive are mostly run by Greeks or Turks.

In the Camden Chippy, the boss hails from Bangladesh, and is ably assisted by a Pakistani and an Afghan, a rare and heart-warming salute to South Asian solidarity, when regional fault lines have made such cohesion into a SAARCastic mockery.

The easy camaraderie of this unlikely trio in catering to enthusiastic customers spanning a dozen origins and languages serves as an exemplary lesson in practical geopolitics.

The Fish and Chips is excellent too, by the way.

Cheap US Money Won't Warsh Anymore

New Fed chief must raise interest rates. And there's a populist case for it. Rising prices have caused a cost-of-living crisis, and low rates have fuelled capital misallocation and asset bubbles

Ruchir Sharma

Columnist based in New York

This week, Kevin Warsh leads his first meeting as chair of the Federal Reserve, and he should start by making the US central bank do the job it has been failing at for years.

That job is to set interest rates at a level that will maximise employment and stabilise prices. Over time, the Fed has come to worry only about jobs and make excuses for inflation – in short, showing a bias for easy money that has lately hit historic extremes.

The economy has hovered near full employment for 55 consecutive months, yet the Fed has missed its inflation target for 63 straight months. Few central banks have matched that record of failure on inflation; in US, the only comparable episode was during the Great Inflation of 1970s.

Even the Fed's 2% inflation target is arguably too high. At that rate, inflation erodes savings and purchasing power "dramatically" over time, according to Warren Buffett, who knows the impact of compounding and prefers a "zero inflation target". Populists of the left and the right tend to push for lower interest rates, but appear not to recognise that the people hurt most by the resulting inflation are their main constituents: the poor and the middle class.

Imagine, if recent US job reports had come in weak instead of strong – the clamour for rate cuts would be deafening. Now, core inflation is stuck around 3%. So far this decade, consumer prices have risen by 30%, and the rising cost of living is the single hottest issue in American politics. Yet, there's no outcry for rate hikes, or hard money. There should be.

The easy money camp keeps saying inflation will pass after the supply shock of the moment, whether it's the pandemic, Donald Trump's tariffs, or the Iran war. But there will always be a shock on the horizon; the next one could be El Nino. The Fed cannot keep accommodating each one.

Meanwhile, US politicians have come to resist rate hikes as a matter of course, on the grounds that someone will get hurt. But high prices are causing more pain than high rates are. Were it not for persistently high inflation, US real wages would be rising, and fewer Americans would be falling behind on mortgage, credit card and car loans.

Image: AI

Then there is the biggest excuse of all: AI. In 1990s, Fed chair Alan Greenspan defended his embrace of easy money by saying the internet would raise productivity and contain inflation. Now, some of his successors – including Warsh – see similar potential in AI, and they may well be right in the long run. For now, however, the impact is inflationary, as the billions Big Tech firms are spending on it push up prices for electricity, compute, semiconductors, and much else.

Beyond jobs and inflation, the Fed has a widely recognised but unwritten "third mandate", which is to stabilise the financial system. A Fed index, which includes measures of borrowing costs as well as prices for stocks, houses and the dollar, suggests financial conditions have rarely been this loose. Nominal interest rates are below the rate of nominal GDP growth, a classic recipe for capital misallocation.

Asset prices are running wild – to the benefit mainly of the very rich, who in turn think the Fed will always be there to bail them out at the slightest hint of trouble. In effect, the central bank has socialised market losses, while placing no cap on gains.

While inflation has not yet gone out of control the way it did in 1970s, the system is more vulnerable today. Financial markets are much larger as a share of the economy, and so are US deficit and debt. Against this backdrop, US cannot afford a return to the dark days of 1979, when Fed chair Paul Volcker began a series of sharp rate hikes to slow the Great Inflation. The damage would be much greater. By one count, a stock market bust just half as deep as those of 2001 and 2008 would generate a similarly large negative wealth effect; and even a 15% drop in the S&P 500 could slow US growth by nearly half.

Better to act now before a bigger rise in inflation forces the Fed to jack up rates more aggressively. Instead, by keeping real rates near zero, the Fed is, in effect, accommodating the deficit, adding fuel to both consumer and asset price inflation. The longer this goes on, the greater the risks to the system.

Warsh is an admirer of Volcker, and a vocal critic of how the Fed's expansive policies have distorted financial markets. Lately, his calls for reform have focused on reducing the size of the Fed balance sheet, which has expanded massively since the global financial crisis in 2008. That may be a reform worth trying, but it is an experiment that would take time to design and implement. The threat to price stability is urgent.

Warsh would face resistance from Trump, but the president has no real answer to the argument that inflation acts as a regressive tax on his populist base – should Warsh choose to make it. Having promised reform, Warsh could begin by ending the Fed's easy money bias, and tightening monetary policy now.

NEET Retest Isn't The Magic Bullet For Gen Z

But no matter how angry they get, today's young won't fill up streets like an earlier generation did in 2011. Politics & protest are via smartphones. Question is, does that work?

Chetan Bhagat

Fingers crossed, nothing will emerge that would suggest NEET's retest yesterday was "leaked". All has gone as foreseen for the retest. Some would say see, the test was redone, problem fixed. Not really. Retest doesn't address Gen Z's anger. Which is what Cockroach Janta Party tapped online.

Born weeks ago, the 'party' with a cockroach symbol soon had millions of followers. It represented the career/income frustrations of youth, reduced to being 'cockroaches' in these difficult times. Gen Z took to the concept like wildfire. CJP follower count crossed those of India's leading political parties. Jokes, memes and sarcasm exploded. Only catch – all of it was exclusively online. At CJP actual physical gathering attempts at Jantar Mantar in the national capital, the turnout was in thousands, at best. To compare: CJP follower-count on Instagram: 2.26cr.

A thousand people in India is nothing. More crowds show up for phone or sneaker launches, or even a minor celebrity visit in a mall. Temples routinely have bigger crowds during festivals.

The online-to-offline gap is massive. Why? Is Gen Z lazy? Does Z stand for zzzz, that they are, in fact, asleep? Or is Gen Z simply not *that* unhappy, living relatively comfortable lives? Sat in AC rooms at home or college libraries? Surfing on smartphones, ordering pizza on delivery apps, while complaining online about a cockroach-like existence?

That's a lazy and over-simplistic generalisation. Every older generation believes they were the hard-working, fearless ones, while the new generation is a bunch of wishy-washy, lazy, entitled snowflakes without courage. It's simply not true. The real explanation lies deeper. And figuring out the CJP phenomenon is understanding Gen Z.

Comparisons are made that this is no 2011 anti-corruption movement. Similarities exist – both tapped into public frustration; attracted young people. Both emerged outside traditional political structures. But CJP did not generate even a tiny fraction of traction that Anna Hazare's protest received. That doesn't mean the emotion behind CJP isn't real. It's just – different.

The real question is: what happens when a digital-first generation raised on smartphones encounters politics? That's the difference between 2011 and 2026.

In 2011, India watched the same TV channels, discussed the same newspaper headlines. A protest at Jantar Mantar became national news because everybody was looking at the same thing. Today, India lives in algorithmic bubbles. One civil services aspirant may watch UPSC videos, another startup influencers, a third make-up tutorials. A fourth lives on political meme pages. All are online. None necessarily experiencing the same reality. This makes mobilising people much harder.

The 2011 movement had one issue, one demand, one slogan, one narrative: *end corruption*. The country knew what it was angry about. CJP supporters talk about unemployment, competitive exams, paper leaks, cost of living, political arrogance, lack of opportunities, youth frustration. All legitimate, but many concerns. It is easier to mobilise a nation around one grievance than ten.

The tone is different too. The anti-corruption movement was serious, the purely digital CJP emerged from humour – memes, satire, irony – and entertainment. An entertaining reel mocking a politician's style gets more reach, faster. But problem is many people are in it for the jokes alone. They like and share but may not join the movement. When the entertainment ends, they'll scroll past.

Does this mean Gen Z is not unhappy? No, that's missing the point. Millions of young people won't engage with issues of jobs and exams, if they are satisfied. The frustration is real. Question is one of expression. Older generations often see politics through action – protests, demonstrations, dharnas, marches. Gen Z's toolkit is different – post, comment, share, create, amplify. Online participation does not feel any lesser than a full-on ground agitation.

This is where older and younger generations often misunderstand each other. The older one may ask, "If you're so angry, why aren't you on the streets?" The younger person may respond, "If millions have seen my post, why do I need to be on the streets?"

In 2011, if people felt unheard, they gathered. In 2026, if people feel unheard, they post. Social media has become both megaphone and pressure valve. Internet absorbs political energy that may once have become street mobilisation. This doesn't make the energy fake.

Why isn't frustration evident in voting patterns? Because people don't vote on one issue. Political choices are bundles. A person can complain online and still vote for the incumbent. That's how democracies work.

Finally, what now for CJP? They have the attention. Challenge is to convert attention into organisation. Can you build local chapters? Recruit volunteers? Can you survive when memes are no longer funny? History suggests virality alone is not enough.

This is a story about a generation that expresses politics differently. A generation that instinctively reaches for their phones – even to protest. But can digital outrage become real-world action? CJP is perhaps India's first major test of that question.

It may not be the last.

Calvin & Hobbes

I HATE ALL THIS WIND! BOY, THIS IS UNPLEASANT! STUPID, MISERABLE WIND! WHAT LOUSY WEATHER! WHAT AN AWFUL DAY!
WELL IF YOU CAN'T CHANGE IT, WHAT'S THE POINT IN GRIPING ABOUT IT?
I'M NOT GOING TO LET A LITTLE WIND BE MORE ANNOYING THAN ME.

Sacredspace

A compassionate heart still feels anger, greed, jealousy, and other such emotions. But it accepts them for what they are with equanimity and cultivates the strength of mind to let them arise and pass without identifying with or acting upon them.

Stephen Batchelor

Balancing Contact And Withdrawal From The World

KV Raghupathi

Indriyas, sense organs, are vital for transmitting data from the outer world to brain cells, where it is processed and converted into an experience called thought. So, the mind is understood as a bundle of thoughts, as the base for thinking. Thoughts, drawn from the storehouse called memory, are generated when they are applied to interpret the present experience. So, the mind is receptive while the sense organs are perceptive, and it can be understood only in relation to thoughts and thinking.

The function of sense organs is only to transmit data from the outer world. Sometimes these sense organs may also get entangled in wrong perceptions. In this sense, illusions, delusions, and hallucinations are created and often mistaken for real perceptions. Similarly, not all stimuli are processed by brain cells. We perceive only a few of them clearly for the simple reason that we do not pay 'attention'. Attention is a perceptual process that selects certain inputs for inclusion in our conscious experience, or awareness, at any given time.

The more we let our sense organs reside outside, more vibrations are created, and they remain, in most cases, unperceived, though in some cases they are perceived. This is known in Sanskrit as *pratyaya*. Our sense organs are constantly exposed to the outer world, leading to creation of more thoughts. We are more tuned to the outer. This results in an imbalance in our lives.

THE SPEAKING TREE

Vrittis, vibrations and modifications can be arrested if the sense organs are now and then withdrawn from meeting the outer world. If we examine the content of our minds, thoughts, impressions, opinions, traces, and images, at any given time, we can divide the mental images into the following three categories: 1. Ever-changing impressions produced by the outer world through vibrations brought by sense organs; 2. Recorded memories of experiences; 3. Mental images connected with anticipations of the future. For the second and third, which are wholly mental, direct result of contact with the outer world through sense organs is a must.

Therefore, if the cause is checked or arrested, result can be, too. If sense organs are brought under control, mental images, vibrations, and modifications can also be arrested or mastered through *dharana* and *dhyan*. This withdrawal of sense organs in Patanjali's Ashtang Yog is known as *pratyahar*.

This withdrawal can be practised through various means, such as chanting *mantras*, reading scriptural texts, *satsang*, being in the company of truth-seekers, or right association with a group of like-minded people engaged in spiritual dialogue, prayers, and meditation. According to yogic psychology and philosophy, senses are really a part of the lower mind. Complete severance from the outer world is an antithetical philosophy.

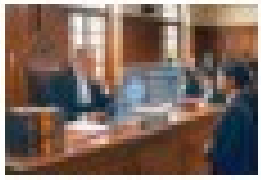
We, however, need to strike a balance between contact with the outside world and withdrawal from it. This is necessary to lead a harmonious and peaceful life. If *yam* and *niyam*, comprising 10 cardinal virtues, are not practised and if *asan* and *pranayam* are not followed, the physical body cannot be brought under control. It is a must if higher stages of the yogic path are to be explored.

AI needed for reality checks

By fostering technical literacy, law schools can equip students with emerging tools, strengthen practical training to expand career opportunities, writes Vajeshwari Dwivedi

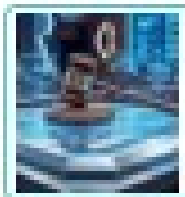
Digital meets legal reasoning

Lawyers must engage with technical, ethical implications of AI in practice, write **Sanjay Mishra** and **Ekta Mandal**



Success now depends as much on communication as it does on doctrine

Lawyers who combine deep legal knowledge with clarity of expression are not just more employable, but are more useful, write **KVK Sandhya** and **Dhanya**



India plans to showcase clean energy at Brics meet

New Delhi: India will host the 11th Brics energy ministers' meeting in Gurugram on June 25-26 under its Brics Chairship, bringing together ministers and officials from member nations to strengthen cooperation on energy security, sustainability, technology and innovation.

The meeting comes at a time when the world is grappling with the challenge of meeting rising energy demand while ensuring affordability, supply security and climate commitments. Power ministry officials said India will use the platform to showcase its energy transition, including rapid growth in solar capacity, deployment of smart meters, expansion of renewable energy infrastructure, advances in energy storage and progress on biofuels, including achieving 20% ethanol blending.

The discussions are expected to culminate in greater collaboration among Brics nations, which collectively account for nearly half of the world's population and around 40% of the global GDP.

As the world's third-largest producer and consumer of electricity, and one of the fastest-growing major economies, India sees secure, affordable and sustainable energy as a cornerstone of its Viksit Bharat 2047 vision, officials said. The meeting will provide India an opportunity to showcase its progress in building a sustainable energy system, they said. TNN

Some villages close to urban areas have 'urban' features

Urbanisation Exceeds Offical Figures: Study

▶Continued from P 1

But a visit to some villages close to urban areas in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala or Madhya Pradesh will show that these have most 'urban' features.

A recent study by National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), under the housing and urban affairs ministry, has recommended the new national settlement classification framework — Functional Urban Settlements — to accurately capture the country's rapidly evolving urban landscape, as a substantial share of urbanisation is taking place beyond officially recognised towns and cities. The study was released by P K Mishra, principal secretary to PM.

"The extent of actual urbanisation is higher than what's recorded," a senior ministry official said, adding there are several areas that exhibit urban characteristics but continue to be governed as rural areas, creating significant gap between geography of urbanisation and governance structures.

Govt has also announced financial aid for City Economic Regions (CERs) in the last Budget. CERs are beyond strict administrative borders and map integrated supply chains, labour markets and surrounding towns to serve as strategic economic hubs.

The NIUA study identified hundreds of functional urban settlements outside the existing system of Statutory and Census Towns by applying its modified Degree of Urbanisation framework in Kerala and MP.

In Kerala, Statutory Towns have increased from 63 to 93 in 2025, while the transition matrix shows that 77 of 461 Census Towns identified in 2011 were upgraded to municipalities and 102 villages were incorporated into urban local bodies. This reflects Kerala's dispersed urbanisation and expanding urban governance network.

In MP, Statutory Towns increased from 361 to 413 and the transition matrix reveals extensive village-to-urban transitions, with 379 villages incorporated into nagar panchayats, 112 into municipalities and 186 into municipal corporations between 2011 and 2025.

These changes indicate a gradual but widespread process of urban transformation across the state's predominantly rural settlement structure.

Unlike approaches based on administrative boundaries or population thresholds, the new matrix has used night-time light (NTL) methods to infer urban extent from the spatial distribution and intensity of illuminated areas captured by satellite sensors.

The ministry is simultaneously finalising uniform classification of tier-2, 3, 4 and 5 cities for coming up with differentiated policy, investment and planning based on the size and role of urban centres. It also proposes to put tier-1 cities under three categories based on population.

URBAN POPULATION TO RISE 20% IN 11 YRS

SETTLEMENT CLASSIFICATION

Current	Proposed
Rural	**Rural**
1 Village — Rural settlement, low population density & limited non-farm activities	1 Village
2 Census Town — Over 5,000 population, higher density & majority non-farm activity	**Functional Urban Settlements:**
3 Statutory Town — Notified urban area with elected local body	2 New Urban Settlement — Rural settlements showing early signs of urbanisation (rising population & non-farm activities)
	3 New Urban Centre — With clear urban characteristics, a local service and employment role
	4 Census Town
	5 Statutory Town

GROWING URBANISATION

Urban population increased from **37.7 crore in 2011** to over **50 crore in 2025**	Urban population projected to touch **60 crore by 2036** & exceed **87.7 crore by 2050**	Between 2011 and 2025, no of **Statutory Towns** increased from **4,041 to 5,015**

The housing and urban affairs ministry is simultaneously finalising uniform classification of tier-2, 3, 4 and 5 cities for coming up with differentiated policy, investment and planning based on the size and role of urban centres

Leak didn't spread to residential areas, says NDRF official

▶Continued from P 1

"We carried out water-washing operations to neutralise any remaining traces of ammonia, and the gas did not spread to residential areas surrounding the factory," said an official of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). A specialised chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) team of the NDRF was deployed to assist local authorities.

In all, 64 workers — 60 women and four men — were exposed to the leak, officials said. Fifteen are under observation at Stanley Govt Hospital and Rajiv Gandhi Govt General Hospital, while 48 others have been admitted to two private hospitals. Among them, two women identified as Jumani Juang (19) and Malothi (20), both natives of Odisha, died. Their bodies were kept at the Tiruvallur Govt Hospital for postmortem. About 130 unaffected workers were shifted to a marriage hall in Kannigaipair, where food, drinking water and medical monitoring arrangements have been made.

Health minister Arunraj said experts detected around 300 ppm of ammonia in the air at the unit.

PTI

NDRF personnel at the seafood export unit in Manjangaranai, Thiruvallur district

"Such high levels have severely affected the workers, most of whom are women," he said.

Periyapalayam police registered a case on the charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder and took into custody the firm's owners, brothers Mohan and Joseph, for inquiry. They were later arrested in connection with the incident. Tiruvallur collector S Kavitha told **TOI** that a govt-appointed committee had begun an inquiry into the cause of the leak.

Chief minister C Joseph Vijay announced an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh each to the families of the deceased and said govt would bear the cost of transporting the bodies to Odisha for the last rites.

Eco, strategic influence linked to maritime prowess: Modi

▶Continued from P 1

Stressing self-reliance in the maritime sector, the PM said, "A nation's economic and strategic influence is directly linked to its maritime prowess." He congratulated Navy, engineers and workers on the achievement.

PM Modi noted that more than 40 indigenously built warships and submarines have been inducted into the Navy over the past few years. Forty-five major naval platforms are currently under construction.

"The Rs 70,000-crore incentive package is... an investment in India's maritime future and industrial expansion," Modi said. INS Dunagiri, named after a Himalayan peak, is the fifth Nilgiri-class frigate under Project 17A and the second of the class built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE). Armed with eight BrahMos cruise missiles and Barak-8 surface-to-air missiles, the stealth frigate packs highly potent offensive and defensive multi-dimensional weapon suites. INS Agray, a submarine hunter, is equipped with advanced sonar, torpedoes and anti-submarine rockets. Large survey vessel INS Sanshodhak, which is equipped with advanced hydrographic and oceanographic systems and four survey motorboats, will contribute to sustainable use of ocean resources and aid coastal and offshore development.

CBSE starts releasing re-eval results

Manash.Gohain@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: CBSE on Sunday began releasing the Class XII verification and re-evaluation outcomes, declaring results for around 87% of the candidates who had sought a review of their evaluated answer books.

Revised marksheets of candidates whose scores have changed are being made available through DigiLocker. The remaining outcomes will be released in phases as applications are processed, CBSE said, adding that the exercise would be completed soon.

Candidates who sought verification of issues in their scanned answer books but received a "no change" decision will be allowed to inspect the scripts at respective CBSE regional offices. The inspection schedule will be announced separately.

The review follows a controversy over OSM, introduced for Class XII this year in place of physical evaluation. After the May 13 results, students reported blurred or cropped scans, missing pages and supplementary sheets, answer-book mix-ups and answers allegedly left unmarked. Unexpectedly low scores in several subjects added to concerns over the new system.

Nearly 98.66 lakh answer books were digitally processed. Of these, 68,018 had to be rescanned because of image-quality problems, while 13,583 were ultimately evaluated manually after repeated scans failed to produce readable copies, according to official figures.

CBSE had allowed candidates to obtain scanned answer books from May 19 to 25 and seek verification or re-evaluation from June 2 to 7. It said the post-result platform was supervised by technical experts from Digital India Corporation, IIT Kanpur and IIT Madras to protect it against unauthorised access.

'100% natural': CCPA cracks down on false F&B claims

Dipak.Dash@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Can food and beverage companies claim that their products are "100%" natural? Can they advertise products as "100% Juice", "Natural Tender Coconut Water", "100% atta or Whole Wheat Bread" when products contain water, fruit concentrates, preservatives, or only 87% whole wheat flour?

Taking note that such claims often mislead buyers, Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), in a recent case, held Storia Foods and Beverages and Bectors Food Specialities (English Oven) liable for such misleading advertisements and unfair trade practices, and imposed a penalty of Rs 1 lakh on each of these companies. They have been directed to discontinue their misleading claims immediately across packaging, websites and digital platforms.

"100%" is a precise and absolute numerical expression and cannot be used loosely or as a marketing tag, chief commissioner Nidhi Khare and commissioner Anupam Mishra have said.

Eloping couple's car hits bus; groom and mom die

Bhopal: What was meant to be the beginning of a new life together ended in tragedy when a car carrying an eloping couple and the groom's family members collided head-on with a bus on Damoh-Jabalpur highway in Madhya Pradesh, killing the groom, his mother and uncle.

The deceased were identified as Akhilesh Prajapati, his mother Sona and maternal uncle Natthu Prajapati. Akhilesh's 20-year-old girlfriend from Katni, and the car driver, Rashid Khan, suffered serious injuries and were referred to Jabalpur for treatment.

Police said Akhilesh and the woman had met through social media. Determined to marry despite belonging to different castes, the couple decided to leave together and start a life of their own.

Investigations revealed Akhilesh had travelled to Katni in a hired car along with his mother and maternal uncle to bring the woman home. The family intended to solemnise the marriage after reaching Sagar. While returning from Katni, the car met with the accident in Jabera area. Akhilesh, his mother and uncle died on the spot, while his girlfriend and the driver were rescued. TNN

32001/428/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER
SUBARNAREKHA & BUDHABALANGA BASIN
AT/PO : LAXMIPOSI, DIST : MAYURBHANJ
Mail Id : cebmsbb2019@gmail.com

Government of Odisha "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No. 06/26-27 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi

1. Name of Work : Construction of U/S Parapet wall and D/S Guard wall (Balance Work) with D/S Surface drain and Dam top Service road of Haladia Earth Dam in Subarnarekha Irrigation Project.
2. Estimated Cost : Rs. 1127.97 Lakh
3. EMD : Rs. 11,28,000/-
4. Period of Completion : 12 (Twelve) Calendar Months
5. Class of Contractor : "A" Class and "Special" Class
6. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal : 25.06.2026 at 10.00 AM
7. Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal : 18.07.2026 up to 5.00 PM.
8. Date of opening of bid : 20.07.2026 at 11.00 A.M.
9. Name & Address of the O.I. T : Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, O/o the CE&BM, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal "**https://tendersodisha.gov.in**".

Sd/-
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager
Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin
Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj

OIPR-32001/32429/1/26-27/0004

34001/373/2627

Government of Odisha "e" procurement Notice No-01
PH. No. 0674-2540603, E-mail Id : senhcnorth_bbsr@rediffmail.com
Identification No. 01/CCE NH, NORTHERN of 2026-27

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Value of work (Rs. in lakh)	Period of completion (in calendar months)	Last date /Time for receipt of bids	Date of opening of tender	Name and address of the officer inviting tender
01	S/R to Repair of Pot Holes in selected stretches of NH- 655 from Km. 30/000 to 69/500 Km. in the State of Odisha for the year 2026-27	110.33	2½ (Two & half)	09.07.2026 upto 17.30 hours.	10.07.2026 AT 11.30 hours.	Chief Construction Engineer, O/o the Chief Construction Engineer, Northern NH Circle, Unit-IX (Flat), Bhubaneswar-22

02. Further details can be seen from the "e" procurement website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** with effect from 10.00 hours of 24.06.2026.
03. Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender if required shall be hosted in the aforesaid website only.
04. The authority reserves the right to cancel any/all bids without assigning any reason.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Northern NH Circle, Bhubaneswar

OIPR-34001/34188/1/26-27/0001

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Process & Product Development Centre
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Foundry Nagar, Agra - 282006 (U.P.)
Extension Centre Thiruvalla Organizes

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Scan QR for Online Registration

Date/ दिनांक:	28 June to 1st July 2026
Time/ समय:	6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Fees/ शुल्क:	3540/-(Inclusive of GST)
Contact Number:	9944971623, 8129988725

Website: ppdcagra.dcmsme.gov.in
CERTIFICATE WILL BE AWARDED

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

OPEN E-TENDER

The following **e-Tenders** can be accessed under the link **www.ireps.gov.in.** Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link **www.ireps.gov.in →login →E-Tender Stores/Supply**. Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information if any, Dy. CMM/HQ/CLW/Chittaranjan, 9163340711 or AMM/HQ, 9163340713 (For Notice Sl.No.A) & Dy. CMM/HQ/CLW/Chittaranjan, 9163340711 or AMM/HQ-II, 9163340724 (For Notice Sl.No. B). **Office Address:** Office of The PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan. **[A] No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 16/06/2026. Sl. No.:[1]. Tender No.: 73263846. Brief Description of Item:** Steel Pipe Fittings For WAG-9HC (Shell Piping) For E70 Brake System As Per Specn. CLW/MS/3/068 Alt.-15 (Each set consists of 30 items as per set details attached). [**Warranty Period:** 72 Months after the date of delivery]. **Quantity: 1430.00 sets Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees):** ₹ 151010.00. **Tender Closing Date & Time (IST): 20/07/2026 at 11:00 AM. [B] No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 17/06/2026. Sl. No.:[1]. Tender No.: 70260093. Brief Description of Item:** Pinion (21 Teeth) Specn: Drg. /Specn. No.: SKDP-3847 Alt.1 /MP.0.2800.19 (REV.01) JUNE 2019. [**Warranty Period:** 72 Months after the date of delivery]. **Quantity: 1536.00 sets. Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees):** ₹ 919290.00. **Tender Closing Date & Time (IST): 25/07/2026 at 11:00 AM.**

PR3/387 PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan

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Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune
Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority
Building, Near Akurdi Railway Station, Pune - 44
Email: ad.pmrda@gmail.com

E-Tender No. 08 Year 2026-27 & 2027-28

Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune office is inviting e-tenders for the appointment of an agency to supply private vehicles on rent for office work for the years 2026-27 and 2027-28. Details of the said tender will be available on the website www.mahatenders.gov.in from 11:00 AM on 22/06/2026. The last date for tender acceptance is 02/07/2026 till 3:00 PM. If there are any changes in the tender, they will be published on the website www.mahatenders.gov.in

Ref. No. 1237/2026
Date 19/06/2026

Sd/-
Joint Commissioner, Administration
Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune.

FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD. AUCTION NOTICE

This is to inform the public at large that FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD. has decided to conduct Auction of Gold ornaments belonging to accounts (mentioned below) which are NPA (Non-performing Asset) or margin breach account/s or any account/s falling into the loan recall clause as specified in the **terms & condition** of the Loan. The Auction would be held as per the schedule provided below:

Loan A/c Number	Base Branch	District 1 Contact	District Auction Date
FEDGL00360017467	Arakalgud - 7619372106	HASSAN MARKET - 8970429398	25/07/2026
FEDGL01030021695	B H Road - 6362802656	B H Road - 8904344610	25/07/2026
FEDGL00110013858	BASAVESHWARA NAGAR - 7406904821	BTM Layout - 9980764782	25/07/2026
FEDGL00110013859	BASAVESHWARA NAGAR - 8884637228	BTM Layout - 9980764782	25/07/2026
FEDGL01590014162	BELUR - 8105608465	HASSAN MARKET - 8970429398	25/07/2026
FEDGL01020019721	Caltex Circle - 9980777310	B H Road - 8904344610	25/07/2026
FEDGL00920006828	Car Street Bellary - 9448132256	CAR STREET BELLARY - 9535205038	25/07/2026
FEDGL00920006836	Car Street Bellary - 9902117049	CAR STREET BELLARY - 9535205038	25/07/2026
FEDGL00460022235	Gubbi - 7022288120	B H Road - 8904344610	25/07/2026
FEDGL01040013659	Harappanahalli - 8971367646	DAVANGERE - 9110855606	25/07/2026
FEDGL00220017969	HARIHAR - 9964595941	DAVANGERE - 9110855606	25/07/2026
FEDGL00220018269	HARIHAR - 7338153743	DAVANGERE - 9110855606	15/07/2026
FEDGL00150006638	HENNUR - 9980585470	BTM Layout 9980764782	25/07/2026
FEDGL00020019432	HOSA ROAD - 9036613776	BTM Layout 9980764782	15/07/2026
FEDGL00990012227	Hospet - 6361014618	HOSPET 9743956995	25/07/2026
FEDGL00950012079	Kampli - 9740462389	CAR STREET BELLARY 9535205038	25/07/2026
FEDGL00950012080	Kampli - 9740462389	CAR STREET BELLARY 9535205038	25/07/2026
FEDGL04030005765	Koppal - 8073050660	GANGAVATHI 9972317836	25/07/2026
FEDGL01210015585	KUnigal - 9353374665	B H Road 8904344610	25/07/2026
FEDGL00620014836	Malebennur - 9535995755	DAVANGERE 9110855606	25/07/2026
FEDGL01600018690	NANJANGODE - 9902871423	Ramaswamy Circle 9620136356	25/07/2026
FEDGL00350004443	Ramamurthy Nagar - 9964730031	BTM Layout 9980764782	25/07/2026
FEDGL01800028441	RAMANAGARA - 9740927164	RAMANAGARA 8197884697	25/07/2026
FEDGL02320014038	RANEBENNUR - 9632123666	RANEBENNUR 8904013982	25/07/2026
FEDGL01830014704	SHIMOGA - 8971677303	SHIMOGA 9513242321	25/07/2026
FEDGL01830014746	SHIMOGA - 8152843793	SHIMOGA 9513242321	25/07/2026
FEDGL00130009073	SULTHANPLYA - 9901046891	BTM Layout 9980764782	25/07/2026

Change in Venue or Date, if any, will be displayed on our Website https://www.fedfina.com/gold-loan/special-sections/auction-venue/. Customer who want to release their ornaments shall visit any of the above branch/es or contact at the number mentioned above on/or before auction Date subject to the terms and condition applicable. Auction will be conducted at respective Districts. In case the auction does not get completed on the given date due to any reasons, the auction in respect thereto shall be conducted on subsequent working days at district level as per above schedule. This would continue till the auction process is over. On failure of the first offline auction at District level, auction will also be initiated through the E-auction platforms of SAMIL https://gold.samil.in and/or e-Procurement Technologies Ltd. (AuctionTiger) - https://egold.auctiontiger.net/.

All participating bidders will be intimated subsequently with respect to acceptance or rejection of bids submitted by them.

Dated : 22.06.2026
Place : Karnataka

For, sd/- Authorised Signatory
Fedbank Financial Services Ltd.,

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

OPEN E-TENDER

No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 17/06/2026. The following **e-Tenders** can be accessed under the link **www.ireps.gov.in** Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link **www.ireps.gov.in → login → E-Tender Stores/Supply**. Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information, if any, Dy. CMM/M-II/CLW/Chittaranjan, 9163340708 or AMM/M, 9163340706. **Office Address:** Office of The PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan. **Sl. No.; Tender No.; Brief Description of Item; Quantity; Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees); Tender Closing Date & Time (IST)** are as follows : **[1]; 75264003D**; Protection Plate Assly. for WAG-9HC Loco. As per Category No. R/9/0085. (Drg./Spen. as per set details attached). [**Warranty Period:** 30 Months after the date of delivery]; **829.00 sets**; ₹ 141850.00; **14/07/2026 at 11:00 AM. [2]**; **75264001**; Junction Box Assly. & Bodyside Floor Secondary Members for WAG-9HC, as per Cat. No. R/9/0083 (As per set details attached). [**Warranty Period:** 30 Months after the date of delivery]; **307.00 sets**; ₹ 627000.00; **24/08/2026 at 11:00 AM**.

[PR4/388] **PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan**

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NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

In this Hon'ble High Court, Chennai monitored auctions (in Crl.O.P.(MD)No. 15498/2024 and batch cases), commercial properties of defaulted financial establishment, namely Neomax Properties Pvt. Ltd. and its sister concerns, are proposed to be brought for sale by way of E-tender cum E-auction through the MSTC website **(https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/nmgp/index.jsp).** The interested bidders may participate in the event by registering in MSTC and depositing Pre-Bid EMD on the website.
Further, for the details of the properties and updates, the bidders may visit the EOW website **(www.tneow.tn.gov.in).**

Sl. NO	Name of the Project	Details of the Asset	Land Area Extent	Built-Up Area (in SFT)
1.	**COURTRALLAM RESORTS** Ayiraperi Village, Tenkasi Taluk, Tenkasi District	RCC Building (A/C & Non-A/C Garden Restaurant, 2 Banquet Halls, Board Room, DVD Theatre, Suit Rooms, Spa, Reception Office Building with Suit Rooms, A/C Bar Building) & Swimming Pool, Artificial Falls, Resorts Cottage Building, Empty Lands. Upset price : Rs.43,19,80,000/- Prebid EMD : RS 4,31,98,000/-	30.69 Acres	34991.25 Sq.ft (approx.)
2.	**KODAI ROAD- DRIVE IN HOTEL.** Jambudurai Kottai Village, Nilakottai Taluk, Dindigul Distric	Drive-in Hotel constructed in Tress Work & STP Plant (Dining area, Party Hall, Kitchen, Servant shed (Gents / Ladies), Toilet (all with GI Sheet Roof) Upset price : Rs. 5,06,25,000 /- Prebid EMD : RS 50,62,500/-	2.64 Acres	13132.44 Sq.ft (approx.)
3.	**KODAI ROAD- CATERING INSTITUTE.** Jambudurai Kottai Village, Nilakottai Taluk, Dindigul District	Catering Institute (Ground floor and Portico with RCC roof, Storage shed, connecting shed with GI sheet roof) Upset price: Rs. 5,72,50,000 /- Prebid EMD : RS 57,25,000/-	3.12 Acres	12395.25 Sq.ft (approx.)
4.	**PAVER BLOCK FACTORY** Keelachinnampatti Village, Vadipatti Taluk, Madurai	Factory Building with Lands (Main Building with GI Roof, Side Building ACC Roof, Office Building RCC Rood) Upset price : Rs. 1,42,18,125 /- Prebid EMD : RS 14,21,813/- (Property attached by ED, No-objection has been given by the ED to auction the property, as per the Hon'ble High Court order. translate to tamil)	2.49 Acres	11319 Sq.ft (approx.)

Important Schedule & Information

Date of site inspection and document verification:	22.06.2026 to 21.07.2026
Date of Assistance to the bidders by the MSTC officials for Registration in the MSTC Portal (at the EOW office Madurai)	02.07.2026 and 03.07.2026
Date and time of auction	22.07.2026, 10.30 AM to 23.07.2026, 5.00 PM (Auto extension applicable)

· Pre-Bid EMD (Except Eligible Neomax Depositors*): Must be deposited well in advance as per the MSTC auction catalogue requirements. · Minimum Incremental Value: Rs. 10,000/- · The properties are to be auctioned on an 'as is where is' condition on the basis of the title deeds on record. It is for the bidders to satisfy themselves of the title and also the physical details and participate in the auction on their own best judgment. · The successful bids, once zeroed in by the MSTC, will be confirmed only after placing it before the Hon'ble Court. The Hon'ble Court, for the reasons of adequacy of price or otherwise, has the right to confirm or reject the bid. In case of rejection, the EMD amount will be returned to the participant(s). · Once the bid is confirmed, the entire sale price has to be deposited by the successful bidders (Except the Neomax depositors who bid without pre-bid EMD) within ten (10) days from the date of confirmation of the auction, failing which the EMD will be forfeited.
*Neomax depositors who claim exemption from Pre-Bid EMD can view their status in the excel sheet posted on the EOW website.
Contact Details: For Inspection/Queries: Contact EOW at **9080381065/8778245559** (10:30 AM to 5:00 PM on working days) and eowmadurai2@gmail.com . For Registration & Auction Helpdesk: Contact MSTC at 9499054101/102/103/104 (10:30 AM to 5.00 PM on working days) and sroopn9@mstcindia.in. Visit www.mstcecommerce.com or www.mstcindia.co.in to participate.

Sd/-
Competent Authority/Superintendent of Police, EOW, South Zone.

Place: Chennai
Date: 20.06.2026. DIPR/555/Tender/2026

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TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2026

ONE IS LOVED BECAUSE ONE IS LOVED. NO REASON IS NEEDED FOR LOVING
— PAULO COELHO

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN SAYS WINNING AN OSCAR FOR HIS SONG IN PHILADELPHIA 'WAS JUST KIND OF A FLUKE'

RUSSELL CROWE FEELS 'GLADIATOR II' FELL SHORT AS IT MISSED ORIGINAL FILM'S EMOTIONAL DEPTH & MORAL CORE

Swiss talks commence under shadow of fresh Trump tirade

Iran Will Be Hit Hard If Lebanon Doesn't Stop Causing Trouble: US Prez

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: The US and Iran began talks in Switzerland on Sunday amid a tentative 60-day ceasefire in West Asia even as US President Donald Trump launched a foul-mouthed tirade against Tehran if it once again closed the Strait of Hormuz as it is threatening to because of continued clashes on Lebanon.

"You close it and you won't have a country…you won't even make it back to your f*****g country," Trump told Fox News in a phone call, according to its correspondent Trey Yingst, who said the president was relaying a message he claimed to have conveyed to leaders of the IRGC in a direct phone call.

Reports of Iran having closed the Strait of Hormuz again emerged after it accused Israel of continuing attacks in Lebanon in violation of the terms of the memorandum of understanding. Israel says it is only responding to attacks from Hezbollah. Washington has leaned on Israel to end the attacks to give peace talks a chance, but Israel has asserted its right to self-defence from Iranian proxies viz Hezbollah.

On his social media feed, Trump wrote, "Iran must immediately stop their highly paid PROXIES in Lebanon from causing trouble. If they don't, we'll hit Iran very hard again, just like we did last week, only harder!!!" But he has also expressed frustration at Israel, raging that the country "can't do anything without blowing up buildings."

Trump also told Fox that 19 million barrels of oil left through the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday, adding that if the two sides failed to reach a deal, the US could become the "Guardian Angel" of the waterway, collect tolls, and take 20% of the oil. "We may take over the Strait, if we have to…I'll blow the sh*t out of them." Trump told the right wing channel.

When told about Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian remarks about Iran maintaining its right to enrich uranium, Trump was quoted as saying, "He better watch his mouth…He better shape up or we'll take over the rest of the country." The US president views the 60-day ceasefire and negotiation framework established under the MoU he signed last week as "just an option," and "I can do whatever I want after that option."

Trump's tirade and threats amid ongoing talks in Switzerland has made his vice-president JD Vance's task of clinching a deal even harder against an Iranian delegation that is said to be insisting on a complete ceasefire in Lebanon before engaging with the US on other issues.

Vance arrived in Switzerland with his wife Usha, who is due with their fourth child. Their three other children did not appear to have accompanied them on what is celebrated as Father's Day in the US.

AP

POWER MEET: Vance, in appreciation of the help the US has received from Pakistan in mediating with Iran, joked, 'I have two very important people in my life — an Indian and a Pakistani. The Indian is my wife Usha, and the Pakistani is Field Marshal Asim Munir'

In remarks to reporters on the margins of the Swiss meetings, Vance, in appreciation of the help the US has received from Pakistan in mediating with Iran, joked, "I have two very important people in my life – an Indian and a Pakistani. The Indian is my wife Usha, and the Pakistani is Field Marshal Asim Munir."

Munir has accompanied Pakistan's PM Shahbaz Sharif to Burgenstock, the Swiss resort where talks are taking place. Video clips from the resort showed the duo in the same room as Vance and Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araggchi, the first time the latter two have been seen together in front of cameras. The Iranian team was later reported to have insisted that there should be no media presence at the talks.

Tirades against Iran aside, Trump continued his online feud with Italian PM Giorgia Meloni, insisting that she had sought to take a selfie with him, while picking on British PM Keir Starmer, suggesting he should quit. "Keir Starmer will resign as Prime Minister of The United Kingdom. He failed badly on two very important subjects- IMMIGRATION AND ENERGY (OPEN NORTH SEA OIL!). I wish him well!" Trump posted on his Truth Social account, continuing a new policy of trolling foreign leaders on social media and interfering directly in their domestic politics.

Iran warns US to 'be careful' after Trump threats

Tehran: Iran's chief negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf on Sunday warned the United States against making threats at the Islamic republic, vowing that "our armed forces are ready to respond". "Don't they think that if their threats had any effect, they would not have reached today's state of desperation? We do not take American threats into account," said Ghalibaf, after President Donald Trump threatened to strike Iran over its support for Hezbollah. "They would do better to be careful with their statements; our armed forces are ready to respond to them in a different manner. No matter what they say, we are the ones who act." AFP

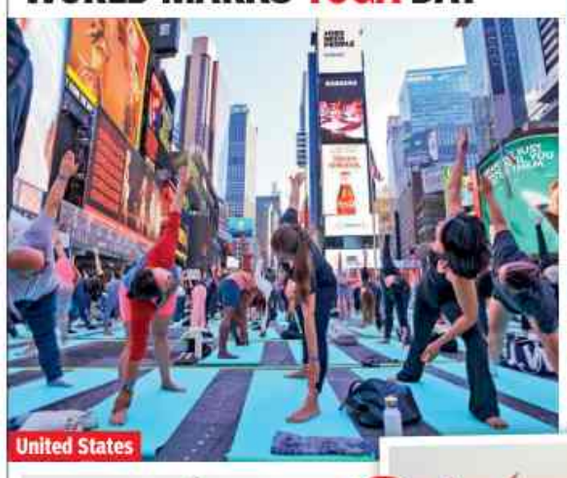
Oil flows through Hormuz despite Iran saying it's shut

Millions of barrels of oil continued to flow through the Strait of Hormuz this weekend even after Iran claimed to have closed the waterway again.

Five laden oil supertankers with a combined transport capacity of 8 million barrels were seen entering or travelling inside the strait on Saturday and Sunday via a route that hugs Oman's coast, before going "dark." One of them resumed sending automated signals early on Sunday after it had reached the Gulf of Oman.

If all the tankers sail through, their movements would support the US military's assertion that it can defend the southern route near Oman's coast, despite Iran claiming broad control. A handful of vessels were also seen entering the Persian Gulf using the southern route. BLOOMBERG

WORLD MARKS YOGA DAY


United States

France

Egypt

Germany

Netanyahu says Israeli troops to stay in south Lebanon 'as long as necessary'

Jerusalem: Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday that Israeli forces would remain in southern Lebanon "as long as necessary", while also vowing to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. "We will remain in the security zone in southern Lebanon for as long as necessary to protect the cherished residents of the north and all the citizens of Israel... Nothing will alter that commitment," Netanyahu said.

"And with regard to Iran: whatever political developments may unfold, I will not allow Iran to acquire nuclear weapons. As long as I serve as prime minister of Israel, that will not happen."

Meanwhile, Israel's military chief said on Sunday that Hezbollah had suffered a severe blow fighting Israeli forces and was now in a "very difficult position", as he met with troops in southern Lebanon. "Hezbollah has suffered a significant blow, and we are committed to remaining prepared to continue operating and prevent its rebuilding," Lt Gen Eyal Zamir said, according to a military statement. However, there were no reports of fresh strikes in Lebanon since Saturday evening. AFP

Reuters

A displaced family heads back their home in southern Lebanon

Hezbollah rejects any Israeli security zone in Lebanon

Beirut: Hezbollah chief Naim Qassem on Sunday rejected any Israeli security zone in Lebanon. Israeli troops "remaining on Lebanese land is impossible. There are no security zones for Israel... we have a national army which deploys, and it is responsible for preserving sovereignty, and it is who we cooperate with," Qassem said in a televised address, adding that "Israel is an aggressor and must leave." He added that the group would respond to any violation from the Israeli side. AFP

Pressure mounts on Starmer to step down after rival's victory

London: British PM Keir Starmer was considering his political future on Sunday, after rival Andy Burnham's decisive election victory to parliament prompted more ministers in the governing Labour Party to call for him to go.

Struggling with some of the lowest popularity ratings for any British PM in recent history, Starmer could decide as soon as Monday whether to step aside or fight a leadership contest against Burnham, a source said. The scale of victory Burnham won for a parliamentary seat in northwestern England on Friday has piled pressure on Starmer, with dozens of lawmakers and some ministers privately calling for him to set out a timetable for his departure to clear the way for the former Greater Manchester mayor.

A source said Starmer was spending the weekend thinking about and discussing his position with his family but that an expected conversation with Burnham would clarify matters. "Keir likes to think about things," the source said. Should Burnham take the helm, he would become Britain's seventh prime minister in the past 10 years.

Starmer's unpopularity was laid bare by Labour's heavy losses in local elections in May, and polls of party members indicate Burnham would win a formal leadership contest.

Sky News reported that it understood foreign minister Yvette Cooper had called on Starmer to stand down in a private conservation over the weekend. Her spokesperson did not respond to a request for comment. Her appeal, alongside other ministers and dozens of lawmakers, increased the sense that it is now a case of when, rather than if, Starmer would step aside. Starmer said only a few days ago that he would stand in any Labour leadership contest that sought to replace him. REUTERS

Getty Images

TIME TO GO?

Starmer will resign, I wish him well: Trump

US President Donald Trump on Sunday said he wished UK PM Keir Starmer well amid reports he plans to resign. "Keir Starmer will resign as PM of The United Kingdom," Trump wrote on Truth Social. "I wish him well." Trump has slammed Starmer for not supporting the US-Israeli war against Iran, and in his post Sunday the president repeated criticism of the British premier. "He failed badly on two very important subjects- IMMIGRATION AND ENERGY (OPEN NORTH SEA OIL!)," Trump wrote. AFP

Fuel sales suspended in Russia's Crimea as Ukrainian strikes kill 4

Moscow: Four people were killed and fuel sales were suspended in Russian-occupied Crimea, the Moscow-backed authorities there said on Sunday, after a massive Ukrainian barrage hit the Black Sea peninsula.

Ukraine said it targeted military and energy facilities in Crimea — Moscow's key logistics base for its four-year military offensive — in one of the biggest attacks on the peninsula in recent months. "As a result of the enemy's drone attack on the Kerch peninsula, unfortunately, there are casualties among the civilian population," said Russia-backed Crimea governor Sergey Aksyonov, referring to the part of Crimea that borders Russia. "According to the latest information, four people were killed, 28 were wounded," he added.

Reuters

A drone footage shows fire and smoke rising from buildings after an attack on an oil depot in the city of Kerch, Crimea

Part of the Crimean peninsula, which was annexed by Russia in 2014, was left without power after the attacks, local utilities company Krymenergo said. Ukraine calls its retaliatory attacks on Russia and occupied territories "long-range sanctions" and denies targeting civilians. Separately, overnight Russian strikes in eastern Ukraine killed three people. Reuters

Political row with Ukraine 'strategic mistake': Poland PM

A conflict between politicians in Poland and Ukraine is a strategic mistake that will harm both sides, Polish PM Donald Tusk said on Sunday on X, as he sought to defuse a row sparked by a historical dispute. On Friday, Polish President Karol Nawrocki stripped Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky of the country's top honour, prompting three former Ukrainian presidents to return their state awards to Poland. Nawrocki decided to revoke the Order of the White Eagle after Zelensky angered many in Poland by renaming a Ukrainian army unit after the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, nationalists who massacred Poles during World War Two. REUTERS

Man charged over suspected anti-Muslim attacks in UK

Scottish police said on Sunday they had charged a 36-year-old man after a series of attacks in Edinburgh on Friday, which PM Keir Starmer said appeared to have an anti-Muslim motive. Five men sustained injuries in the attacks and three required hospital treatment for non-life-threatening injuries, police had previously said.

Videos on social media showed a half-naked, tattooed, white man who appeared to be carrying a large weapon chasing an Asian man and then attempting to break his way into a restaurant.

In a written statement on Sunday, Police Scotland said a 36-year-old man had been charged and a report submitted to prosecutors, and that the man and would appear in court in due course. REUTERS

Eye on China, Taiwan to stage 5 days of combat readiness drills

Taipei: Taiwan's military will hold a five-day combat readiness drill this week, the defence ministry said Sunday, as part of modernisation plans to shift its training focus to more realistic exercises simulating war, away from set-piece events.

Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory, says China's armed forces routinely operate in the skies and seas around the island in an effort to pressure it to accept Chinese sovereignty. Taiwan's military has begun basing some of its drills on a scenario in which China suddenly turns one of its regular exercises around the island into an actual attack.

The recent announcement came on the same day the ministry said China had sent another large number of military aircraft into the skies near Taiwan. REUTERS

US to investigate incident that led Delta flight to abort landing

New York: The Federal Aviation Administration is probing a close call between two commercial flights that were in danger of colliding Saturday at Boston Logan International Airport. A Delta Air Lines flight from Dallas had to execute a go-around, or aborted landing, to avoid an American Airlines plane departing from an intersecting runway, according to the FAA and flight logs.

The crew of Delta flight 2351 coordinated with ATC to perform the go-around, an airline spokesperson said. The plane, which had 129 passengers and six crew on board, landed safely and deplaned normally, according to the spokesperson. American Airlines and the airport referred requests for comment to the FAA. AP

DAILY PLANET

Getty Images

KEEPING THE TRADITION: People continue the age-old tradition of gathering at Stonehenge in Wiltshire on Sunday for Summer solstice

French police raid house for drugs and find a Picasso

A police raid looking for drugs at a house in a Paris suburb turned up a painting by Pablo Picasso, prosecutors said Saturday. Police had opened a probe into theft and dealing in stolen goods, the public prosecutor's office of Creteil, south-east of Paris said. According to newspaper Le Parisien, which first reported the story, the search was carried out on Monday by investigators in Champigny-sur-Marne, a town east of Paris.Along with the painting, the police seized cannabis resin, luxury clothing and several thousand euros in cash, the newspaper said.

Dutch PM makes formal apology to Moluccans

Dutch PM Rob Jetten Sunday issued a formal state apology to members of the Moluccan community for their decades-long mistreatment by the Netherlands after Indonesia won independence from colonisation. Many Moluccans, from the so-called "spice islands" in eastern Indonesia, fought for the Dutch colonial army during the post-World War II struggle for independence. After Indonesia gained independence in 1949, around 12,500 Moluccans were brought to the Netherlands in a state-organised transfer to escape reprisals. They were supposed to stay only briefly before returning to an independent country, as part of negotiations at the time. However, the Dutch reneged on their promise to repatriate them and they were housed in dire conditions, with little attempt to find them jobs or integrate them into broader Dutch society.

In a first, King Charles to reveal tax details: Palace

Britain's King Charles will tell the public for the first time on Thursday how much tax he pays as monarch, a royal spokesperson said Sunday, as Buckingham Palace seeks to be more transparent. By law, Charles is not obliged to pay income tax, capital gains tax or inheritance tax on what he received from Queen Elizabeth, but Charles has voluntarily agreed to pay the taxes.

Overheated France restricts public alcohol consumption, outdoor sports

Paris: France put emergency services and military forces on wildfire alert, restricted public alcohol consumption and cancelled some outdoor sports events to cope with a heat wave unfurling across parts of Europe. Multiple drowning deaths have been reported.

About a third of France is under the heat red alert Sunday and temperatures are expected to reach 40°Celsius on Sunday in some areas, in a country where air-conditioning isn't widespread. The forecast for Monday is even hotter.

The Eiffel Tower and other Paris venues set up misting stations to cool crowds, among a raft of measures announced by national and local authorities to minimise risks. Tourists in Rome sought relief in fountains. Spain's Basque Country cancelled some sports and cultural events.

More than 200,000 people across Europe died from heat-related causes over the last four years, and most of the fatalities were preventable, the World Health Organisation's Europe office said this month. More above-average temperatures are expected this summer, which can cause heat exhaustion and life-threatening heat stroke.

Human-caused climate change is tied to increasing extreme weather events and UN climate agency projections say the next five years should shatter more heat records. A rapid study found that human-caused climate change was responsible for killing about 1,500 people in an unusually early European heat wave last month. In this latest European hot spell, French media reported that four children drowned Saturday.

Authorities are notably worried about people living in the baking streets, and elderly people in nursing homes or isolated in their homes. About 15,000 older people died in France in a 2003 heat wave that became a national reckoning. Govt announced reinforced wildfire readiness and ordered tightened surveillance of water supplies to France's many nuclear reactors, and ordered 845 schools to close Monday.

In Italy, authorities expanded heat warnings — referred to locally as "red flags" — to eight cities Sunday in northern and central parts of the country. Temperatures there are mostly in the upper 30s°C. At one farm outside Milan, owners set up fans and sprinklers to keep cows cool. In Rome, tourists dunked their arms and occasionally their faces into the city's famed fountain pools.

Thunderstorms also threatened several regions.

In Germany, temperatures are soaring into the mid 30s°C. A 23-year-old man drowned on Saturday in a lake near Rheinstetten in the southwestern region of Baden-Württemberg, the German news agency dpa reported. Three other people are missing after swimming in the Rhine River, which has strong currents, a police spokeswoman said.

UK's weather office issued an "extreme heat" warning for much of southern England and parts of Wales on Monday and Tuesday, saying temperatures could exceed 35°C. The current record for a June day is 35.6°C, reached in 1976. AP

AFP

People sunbath on the beach at Lake Hostens, south-western France

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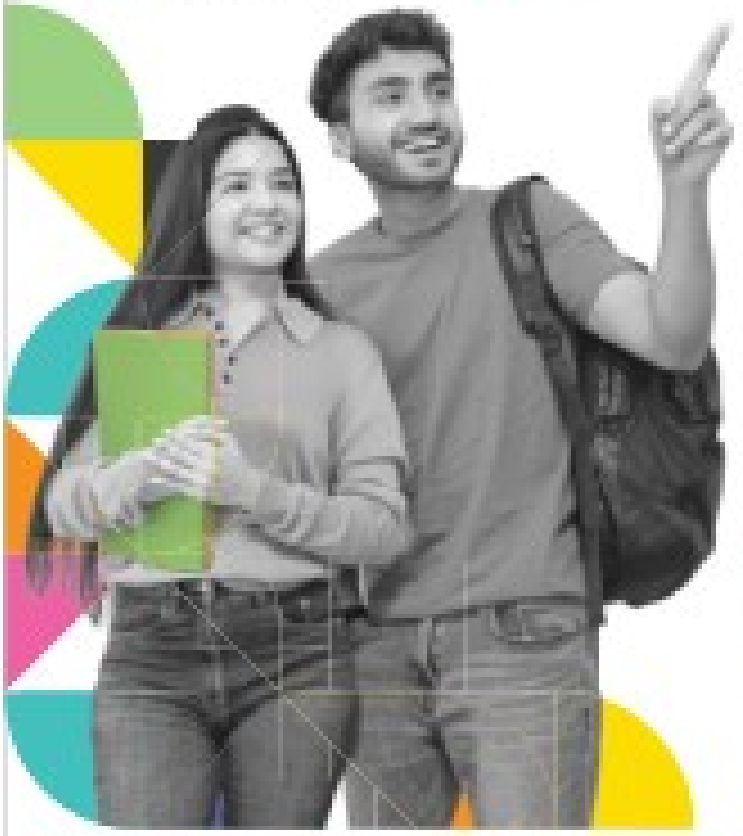

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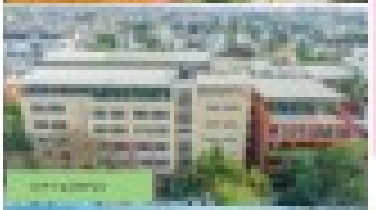

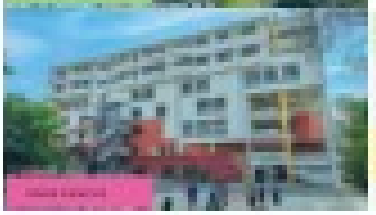

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TIMES SPORT | THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU
MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2026

"NEYMAR ISN'T EVEN PLAYING. NEYMAR IS THE WORLD'S FIRST 'WORK-FROM-HOME' PLAYER. ANY DAY NOW, THEY'LL HAVE TO PUT TOGETHER A NATIONAL TEAM USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE — ELEVEN PELES."

—BRAZIL PRESIDENT LULA **ON NEYMAR,** WHO WAS AN OUTSPOKEN SUPPORTER OF FORMER PRESIDENT BOLSONARO

After Several World Cup Heartbreaks, The Netherlands Revive Hopes They Can Finally Shed Their 'Nearly Men' Tag With A A Commanding 5-1 Win Over Sweden

NETHERLANDS 5
Brobbey 5, 17 Gakpo 47, 54
Summerville 89
SWEDEN 1
Elanga 59

THE FUTURE IS... Dutch players celebrate with their fans after their emphatic win in Houston

Xinhua AP

SOMETHING IN THE ORANJE

Vishal.Menon@timesofindia.com

Like every sport, international football is awash with numerous 'what if?' moments. What if the prolific Dutch forward Rob Rensenbrink had scored in the dying moments of the 1978 World Cup final against Argentina? Despite producing a galaxy of superstars like Johan Cruyff, Ruud Gullit, Dennis Bergkamp, and their tactical ingenuity in conceptualising Total Football, the Netherlands and the World Cups have always been a big 'what if' story. The weight of Rensenbrink's thin-as-razor's edge miss seems to have weighed on the country's future generation of footballers. So much so, they remain the only country to have appeared in three World Cup finals without ever winning one.

The Netherlands were off to a desultory start in this World Cup, with a 2-2 draw against Japan in the opener, and a defeat to Algeria in the warm-up game. Under manager Ronald Koeman, this team lacks a talismanic figure that made Dutch football an irresistible force back in the 1970s. They missed Cruyff's gravitas and lacked Gullit's heavy artillery. Even the country's local press seemed to have written them off.

All that changed on Saturday. An early double from Brian Brobbey, two more in the second half from Cody Gakpo and a late goal from Crysencio Summerville helped the Netherlands cruise to a 5-1 win over Sweden in their second game of this World Cup at Houston. The Dutch delivered the statement performance that Koeman had always demanded from them.

"A great result, but enough moments of which we say: that could be better. Then you play a complete match and this was almost like that," Koeman said after the win.

Koeman's tactical brilliance of fielding Brobbey as the striker from the onset paid off. The Sunderland forward reposed faith in his manager by scoring twice in the first 17 minutes to give the Dutch an unassailable lead.

Showcasing fluidity and attacking vigour, reminiscent of Total Football, a rooted philosophy that carried them to the 1974 World Cup final, the Dutch looked like a team on a mission. Under Houston's enclosed, climate-controlled stadium, Koeman's men showcased verve, with Denzel Dumfries' energy on the right flank and Ryan Gravenberch's commanding presence in the midfield. Eight Dutch players packed into the box, pinning the Swedes back for the bulk of the game.

Can they go where no Dutch has ever gone before? The die-hard fans seem to think so. They have support from noted German economist Joachim Klement who has predicted the Netherlands would win this World Cup. For the uninitiated, Klement predicted the three previous winners correctly -- Germany in 2014, France in 2018 and Argentina four years ago.

Interestingly, the Netherlands football team and the South African cricket team share a striking parallel as the quintessential 'nearly men' in modern sport. Like the Oranje, the Proteas have the reputation of falling short of championship glory at major cricketing events. They erased a bit of that wound by winning the 2025 World Test Championship under the leadership of Temba Bavuma.

South Africa's win offers a lesson for the Dutch. This new generation of footballers - unshackled and irreverent - should acknowledge history and play without carrying its baggage. If Koeman's team does that, Klement's prediction would indeed come true for the fourth time.

8 The Netherlands became only the eighth team in FIFA World Cup history to reach the 100-goal milestone.

4+ Sweden are the first side to win their first game by 4+ goals (5-1) and then lose their second by 4+ goals (1-5) at a World Cup tournament since... Sweden in 1938.

100 **Cody Gakpo** of the Netherlands netted the 100th goal at this year's tournament with the Netherlands' third goal in a 5-1 win over Sweden.

14 With their 5-1 demolition of old European rivals Sweden, the Netherlands now hold the longest unbeaten streak in World Cup matches with 14 games. Their last defeat came at the hands of Spain in the 2010 World Cup final in Johannesburg (Tie-break results are counted as draws.)

Reuters

THAT BOY! Yamal scores after 10 minutes of his first start at the World Cup

First strike for Yamal as Spain back into groove

Atlanta: Welcome to the World Cup, Lamine Yamal. Welcome to the World Cup, Spain.

Teenage superstar Yamal scored 10 minutes into his first start on soccer's biggest stage and Spain kickstarted their campaign with the 4-0 demolition of Saudi Arabia on Sunday.

The 18-year-old forward slid in at the far post to touch home a low cross for the opening goal in Atlanta. He became the eighth youngest scorer in World Cup history and more importantly settled Spanish nerves after the team was held to a surprise 0-0 draw by Cape Verde in its opening game.

In a tournament that has already seen Lionel Messi, Kylian Mbappe, Erling Haaland and Harry Kane get off to flying starts, Yamal's strike saw him join the party.

The Barcelona winger is already considered one the world's top players and helped Spain win the European Championship in 2024 despite being just 16 years old when the tournament started. He is tipped to take over from Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo as the sport's biggest star but came into the World Cup with questions over his fitness after he missed the end of the season with a hamstring injury.

Yamal, who was only used as a second-half substitute against Cape Verde, was thrown in from the start against Saudi Arabia and wasted no time in making his presence felt. He had already repeatedly sliced through the Saudi defence before turning home Mikel Oyarzabal's cross.

A full house at Atlanta Stadium was mainly filled with Spain fans who had roared in celebration just at the sight of Yamal emerging for the pre-game warm up. And the cheers were even louder as he raced away to celebrate his goal, dropping to his knees, praying and kissing the turf.

It was just the impact Spain coach Luis de la Fuente wanted from his star player, having been inundated with questions about when Yamal would be ready to start.

SPAIN 4
Yamal 10, Oyarzabal 21, 24
Tambakti 49 (og)
SAUDI ARABIA 0

Japan's collective soul rises

Monterrey: Japan were without injured playmaker Takefusa Kubo for Saturday's World Cup match against Tunisia, but their fluent attack hardly missed a beat with Ayase Ueda scoring twice and setting up another in a crushing 4-0 win.

Daichi Kamada and Junya Ito also got on the scoresheet as Japan tore through Tunisia's defence to deliver a statement victory in the 1,000th match of the World Cup.

It was also a landmark moment for Asian football, with Japan becoming the first team from the continent to score four goals in a World Cup match. "We prepared well for what we wanted to do and played aggressively," Hajime Moriyasu told DAZN, adding that the Japanese and Mexican fans in Monterrey had provided a huge boost.

"Daichi (Kamada) has mostly been deployed as a defensive midfielder recently, but considering our current team situation, we had him shift to the shadow striker position today. The idea was to bring out his strengths and have him control the team's offence and defence from that advanced position.

"Ko Itakura and Takehiro Tomiyasu, these two have also played central roles in our team-building process up until now. We have always viewed them as players capable of competing at the true World Cup standard."

Japan and the Netherlands are both on four points heading into the final round of games in Group F, with the Dutch ahead on goals scored.

"As a team, seeing players pick up injuries is, of course, highly regrettable and a painful blow. However, we have built this squad around the concept of whoever steps onto the pitch can win, and whoever partners up can function effectively."
—**Hajime Moriyasu,** JAPAN COACH

For Tunisia, the defeat brought a swift and painful end to their campaign.

Herve Renard was brought in after a 5-1 loss to Sweden in the hope that the veteran coach could spark a turnaround, but his first match in charge ended with elimination with a game to spare. "We still have a third game to play, we are at a World Cup and must remain focused," Renard said. "We must be professionals to the very end." REUTERS

Reuters

ONE FOR ALL: Japan's Junya Ito (right) celebrates their third goal with Ueda and Kamada

JAPAN 4
Kamada 4 Ueda 31, 83 Ito 69
TUNISIA 0

Gomi hiroi: The Japanese practice of cleaning up
Japanese fans celebrated their team's win in the 1,000th match in World Cup history by staying behind at Monterrey's stadium to collect rubbish from the stands. The practice, known as gomi hiroi, reflects an emphasis on taking responsibility for shared spaces. Nuevo León governor Samuel García said he had arranged for 20,000 trash bags to be distributed in the stadium.

4 Japan became the first team from the Asian continent to score four goals in a World Cup match.

Getty Images

CURACAO 0
ECUADOR 0

SAFETY LOCK: Eloy Room makes yet another save

Curacao 'keeper leaves no room for Ecuador

Kansas City: Tim Howard, a United States men's national team legend, stands alone in World Cup history with his 16-save performance in the Americans' 2-1 Round of 16 loss to Belgium in the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

But he may have been a bit worried on Saturday night, when Curacao goalkeeper Eloy Room made 15 saves in a scoreless draw against Ecuador Saturday night in Kansas City to earn Curacao's first-ever World Cup point.

At least Room hopes so.

"A little bit annoyed that I don't have the record from Tim Howard, but I think he was sweating in front of the TV because I was close," Room quipped in his press conference.

In some ways, Room made history. His 15 saves are the most in a World Cup match by a goalkeeper who kept a clean sheet. It's also a record for a 90-minute match, with Howard's performance coming in an extra-time match.

15 Curaçao's **Eloy Room** recorded 15 saves against Ecuador, the most on record (since 1966) by any goalkeeper in a World Cup match that did not feature extra-time.

The fact that it came just one match after Room made four saves on 12 shots on net in Curacao's 7-1 opening loss to Germany in Houston makes it that much more unbelievable. "I think I need a statue in Curacao now," Room said.

The 37-year-old Netherlands native came up through a few Dutch academies and squads before settling with the Columbus Crew, with whom he won the 2020 MLS Cup. Now, though, he's not even in the top-level American league, playing for Miami FC in the USL Championship. REUTERS

Xinhua

NO MERE SUBSTITUTE: Deniz Undav scores the equaliser for Germany

GERMANY 2
Undav 68, 90+4
IVORY COAST 1
Kessie 30

5 Despite playing just 56 minutes at the 2026 FIFA World Cup, Deniz Undav has the most goals and assists of any player (3 goals, 2 assists).

2 Deniz Undav is the first German player since Miroslav Klose in 2002 to have scored in each of his first two World Cup matches.

"I could have him in the starting lineup. I think that every player would love to be in the starting lineup, but I think he's very happy as it is right now."
— GERMANY COACH **Julian Nagelsmann** STRESSED THAT THE STUTTGART FORWARD WAS THRIVING AS A SUB.

AP

ALL THAT THEY SURVEY... Dutch king Willem-Alexander and queen Maxima (C)began Saturday by cheering the Dutch in Houston. They ended the day watching Curacao in Kansas City. Curacao is a constituent country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Denis Undav, Germany's working class hero

The Four-Time Winners Will Be Careful Not To Do An Ozil On Their Latest Turkish-Origin Discovery

Dwaipayan.Datta@timesofindia.com

Four-time champions Germany is back in the knock-outs after a 12-year exile. The man central to their return is striker Denis Undav — the son of a Turkish immigrant. In a cruel twist, meanwhile, Turkiye was among the first teams to crash out of the World Cup.

Undav already has five goal involvements with three strikes, including Saturday's brace against Ivory Coast that helped Germany edge out the west Africans 2-1.

When Germany won the last World Cup in 2014, another Turkish immigrant who later often fell out with German football hierarchy and media, was crucial to their success. A silken playmaker with brilliant passing ability and a thunderous shot, Mesut Ozil was one the rising stars of world football. Four years prior to Brazil, in South Africa, he had made the world sit up and take notice as the 21-year-old creative leader of an exciting German generation that often stayed in the shadows of an excellent Spanish side.

Ozil's political leanings — being seen as sympathetic towards the Erdogan regime in Turkiye — led to him being made the scapegoat for Germany's early exit at the 2018 tournament and disgusted, he quit the team citing racism and disrespect.

It was a premature end to a career that had promised much, but the mantle now seems to have been taken over by Undav. His family hails from the Kurdish-Yazidi community in southeastern Turkey who emigrated to Germany in the 1980s, due to years of political tension in the region. It makes the 29-year-old the first footballer of Yazidi descent to represent the German national team.

Like many second-generation Turkish immigrants growing up in Germany, Undav too harboured hopes of becoming a footballer. But there were roadblocks and at 14, being rejected by Werder Bremen in the Bundesliga, was heart-breaking. But Undav never gave up on his dream. When Germany were winning the World Cup in Brazil, Undav, then 17, was employed at a factory, earning £120 a week for the eight hours he'd put in everyday. On weekends, he turn out for a fourth-tier club.

"I did not abandon hope. I left the family home at 17 to sign for Havelse where I combined playing and training with working full-time operating a laser machine in a factory... I got up around 4 am, went to the factory, then I went to training and got back home around 8 pm. Before doing it all again the next day," Undav told Belgian outlet 7sur7 in an interview.

Undav moved to Belgian side Union Saint-Gilloise in 2020, and after scoring 25 goals in the Belgian Pro League, he was scouted by Brighton in the EPL. While he wasn't a success in England, the loan move to VFB Stuttgart in the Bundesliga, worked like magic and with 19 goals in 2025-26, he finished second on the scorers' chart after Harry Kane for Bayern. It was good enough to earn him a World Cup call-up, despite the initial reluctance of coach Julien Nagelsmann.

Undav's relationship with his country of origin hasn't been the most comfortable. In 2025, while playing for Stuttgart against Turkish side Fenerbahce in Istanbul, he was subject to racist and anti-Kurdish abuse.

Taking all that prejudice in his stride, the striker is proving essential to German hopes. Even though not a starter — Nagelsmann prefers playing a false-nine and Kai Havertz gets the first nod — Undav has made his mark.

Former German striker Juergen Klinsmann told ESPN how Undav's style of play brings a different dimension to the team. "Germany were struggling physically when Undav was brought in. He is the kind of an old-school typical No. 9, a goal scorer who is hungry for every occasion. I think Undav deserves a chance from the beginning and Nagelsmann can explore the idea. Hope Undav helps us forget the nightmares of Russia and Qatar," Klinsmann said.

Over the next three weeks now, a once-proud football nation, determined on regaining lost glory will hope that the street-fighter with Turkish origins, will be man to carry them. And Undav, the former factory worker, will be more than happy to.

KNOCKOUTS CALLING

Argentina Face Austria With Rd-Of-32 In Sight

Dallas: Defending champions Argentina can take a major step towards the knockout stage when they face Austria in their second World Cup Group J match on Monday, after both sides opened their campaigns with convincing victories.

Lionel Messi inspired Argentina's title defence with a hat-trick in a 3-0 win over Algeria, drawing level with Germany's Miroslav Klose as the all-time leading scorer in World Cup history, while Austria beat Jordan 3-1 to set up a meeting between the group's two early leaders.

A victory would leave Argentina on the brink of the Round of 32 and could secure top spot in the group if Jordan fail to beat Algeria in the day's other Group J match.

Austria arrive with ambitions of their own after an impressive opening performance under coach Ralf Rangnick and can also move into a commanding position in the group if they overcome Argentina and Algeria do not beat Jordan.

ARGENTINA VS AUSTRIA (Group J)

World Cup appearances Arg: **19** | Austria **8**
FIFA rank: Arg: **1** | Austria: **21**
Best Finish Arg: Champions (3 times) 1978, 1986, 2022 Austria: 3rd place (1954)

Much of the attention will again fall on 38-year-old Messi, whose clinical display against Algeria reinforced Argentina's status as one of the favourites to retain the trophy, a threat Austria captain David Alaba acknowledged after watching his opener. "We definitely watched their game before we left," the defender said after their opening win. "It's incredible that Messi started such a tournament with a hat trick. Absolutely insane... Let's hope he doesn't (do it) next week."

Alaba was quick to stress that Argentina's quality extends well beyond their talisman. "We know what kind of opponent we're up against, what kind of quality they have in their ranks, even besides Messi, but also what they're capable of as a team," he said. Austria will hope their organised pressing game can disrupt Argentina's rhythm and strengthen their credentials as potential group winners.

Argentina assistant coach Pablo Aimar warned that Austria would pose a different challenge to Algeria, describing Rangnick's side as a physical team capable of causing problems despite Argentina's impressive start. "Austria is a very tough team, as we're seeing with the vast majority of the teams participating in this World Cup," he said in a FIFA interview. REUTERS

Reuters

10.30 pm Live on Zee5 and Unite8 Sports

FUN & GAMES: Lionel Messi during training in Kansas City on Sunday

HARDLY ANY PUSHOVERS

There was talk about a lopsided World Cup once it was expanded to a 48-team event. But after the first 24 matches, it is clear that the competitive edge hasn't been compromised. While number of goals have increased, goal difference remains the same with Qatar 2022, which indicates a proper contest

RISING ABOVE EXPECTATIONS: Congo's Yoane Wissa heads in his side's first goal during the World Cup Group K match against Portugal

75 Number of goals scored this year after 24 games

57 No. of goals in Qatar after Rd 1

35 GD after the first round of matches, which is the same as Qatar's

Important results indicating tight contest

- **DR Congo** (who were formerly known as Zaire) **held Portugal 1-1**
- **Spain** were held goalless **by Cabo Verde**, the **fifth lowest-ranked team** in the World Cup
- **World No. 82 Curacao**, who were trounced 1-7 by Germany in the first match, **held World No. 23 Ecuador** goalless in Round 2
- **Qatar**, who are World No. 56, **held Switzerland 1-1**

Reasons for competitiveness

- **More players joining the top leagues** and more top coaches being hired by smaller nations
- **Wider availability of tactical knowledge** and physical conditioning methods, allowing **less-traditional teams to better compete** against the traditional powerhouses.

FAME GAME: Cabo Verde goalie Vozinha has become a celebrity after his show against Spain

France ready for cornered Iraq

New York: France may be the overwhelming favourites ahead of their second World Cup Group I game against Iraq on Monday but they will be bracing themselves for a big battle, France defender William Saliba said.

The French, 2022 World Cup finalists and world champions four years earlier, are on three points following a 3-1 victory over Senegal. Iraq lost their opener 4-1 to group leaders Norway after a strong start to the game.

Iraq, who drew 1-1 with Spain in a friendly days before the tournament started, have never won a World Cup match, losing all three of their group games at their only previous appearance in 1986.

2.30 am (Tuesday) Live on Zee5 and Unite8 Sports

They needed to play 21 qualification matches in order to earn their place in this tournament, grabbing the last available World Cup spot by beating Bolivia 2-1 in their intercontinental playoff in late March.

Saliba and his teammates, who sharply criticised the quality of the pitch in their first match in New York/New Jersey Stadium, are hoping for an improved version for their game in Philadelphia.

France are expected to make only minor adjustments rather than wholesale changes for their second match on Monday, with coach Didier Deschamps keen to preserve momentum while edging closer to the knockout stages.

Deschamps has often favoured stability at major tournaments and is unlikely to deviate from that approach despite the depth of talent at his disposal. REUTERS

Senegal test for Norway

New York: Senegal face a defensive conundrum as they prepare to play Norway and their prolific centre forward Erling Haaland at the World Cup on Monday.

Captain Kalidou Koulibaly returned from injury for Senegal's opening Group I game against France but was found wanting up against Kylian Mbappe and could be dropped as coach Pape Bouna Thiaw looks to counter the threat of Haaland at the New York/New Jersey Stadium.

5.30 am (Tuesday) Live on Zee5 and Unite8 Sports

Norway with Haaland netting twice in a 4-1 victory over Iraq in Boston. How best to deal with Haaland will have given Thiaw plenty to ponder, particularly whether to persist with Koulibaly or replace him with Mamadou Sarr.

When Koulibaly was suspended at the African Cup of Nations finals in Morocco, Sarr stepped in and impressed before joining Chelsea. REUTERS

SNAP SHOTS

New Zealand level series

New Zealand pacer Matt Henry ran through England's tail to give his side a 253-run victory in the second Test at The Oval to level the series at 1-1 on Sunday. Meanwhile, Ben Stokes is set to return as England captain for the third Test. **Brief scores: NZ: 391 & 362** bt **Eng: 291 & 209 (o/n: 182/5) in 58.1 overs** (Joe Root 77; Matt Henry 6-29, Kyle Jamieson 3-37).

Marsh powers Oz: Mitchell Marsh smashed 60 off 28 balls as Australia completed a 3-0 T20 series sweep over Bangladesh on Sunday, to win by seven wickets in Chattogram on Sunday. **Brief scores: Bangladesh 109/8 in 20 overs** (Towhid Hridoy 61n.o; Spencer Johnson 2-6, Nathan Ellis 2-21, Adam Zampa 2-22) lost to **Australia 112/3 in 11 overs** (Mitchell Marsh 60).

Indian women's team wins gold: The Indian quartet of Srabani Nanda, SS Sneha, Sudeshna Shivankar and Tamanna clinched the gold medal in the women's 4x100m relay on the final day of the second edition of the Asian Relays Championships in Shaoxing, China on Sunday. The Indian gold medal women's 4x100m relay team clocked 43.85 seconds, a season best. The Indian contingent also won silver in mixed 4x400m and bronze in mixed 4x100m relay. The mixed 4x400m relay team added silver to the medal tally with Theerthesh Shetty, Poovamma MR, Bharath Sridhar and Neeru Pathak clocking 3:17.06 seconds.

Harshit, Akshat claim gold-silver: Indian gymnasts Harshit Damodaran and Akshat Bajaj scripted history by securing a gold-silver finish in the junior men's vault event at the Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championships in Zunyi, China on Sunday. Harshit topped the podium with a score of 13.649, while Akshat finished second with 13.433 in the continental competition.

Jyoti strikes gold: Jyoti clinched India's lone gold medal at the World Boxing Cup 2, defeating Uzbekistan's Farzona Fozilova 5-0 in the 48kg final in Guiyang, China on Sunday. India added three silver medals. Minakshi (51kg), Prachi (57kg) and Deepak (70kg) lost their respective title bouts.

Diksha top Indian: Golfer Diksha Dagar stayed as the top Indian at tied 5th and was well on her way to record another solid finish at the Dutch Ladies Open. Diksha carded a round of 2-under 70 be 5-under par after two rounds. Avani Prashanth was just outside the top 10 after carding even par 72, with a total score of 3-under par (69-72).

D'Artagnan wins: The favourite D'Artagnan, piloted by Vivek, came up trumps in the Colts Championship Trial Stakes at the summer races in Bengaluru on Sunday. The added attraction, Civil Service Cup was won by Prasanna Kumar-trained Prokofiev.

Vintage Kapp powers SA past India

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Getty Images

MASTERCLASS: Marizanne Kapp

Marizanne Kapp may not have enjoyed the best of times with the bat in recent months, but in Manchester on Sunday, the 36-year-old produced a masterclass in composure and class to guide South Africa past India in their Group I clash of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup.

Kapp first made her mark with the ball, picking up crucial wickets (2/27), before taking charge of the chase with a match-winning 81 off 45 deliveries (7x4, 4x6) — her highest score in T20 internationals. South Africa sealed a six-wicket victory with five balls to spare, extending their recent dominance over the reigning ODI world champions.

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, playing her landmark 200th T20I, opted to bat. India started brightly but lost their way in the middle overs, finishing with 158/7. Left-arm spinner Shree Charani (3/24) struck twice early in South Africa's chase to raise hopes of a third successive victory for India. But Kapp had other ideas.

Down 25/2 in the sixth over, Kapp joined forces with Tazmin Brits (40), and their 97-run third wicket laid the foundation of a crucial victory.

India will rue a series of soft dismissals, but the bigger regret could be the missed chances in the field. Kapp was handed three reprieves, with one of India's best fielders, Radha Yadav, guilty of dropping the seasoned all-rounder twice. After all, catches win matches.

Earlier, India's innings was a blend of promise, missed opportunities, and untimely setbacks.

Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma gave India a solid start, but Kapp broke the opening stand by bowling around the wicket and castling the in-form Smriti, who attempted an awkward scoop shot.

Shafali kept the momentum going by taking the attack to Chloe Tryon, plundering 17 runs from the third over, including a towering six over long-off. However, her entertaining 31 (15b; 4x4, 1x6) was cut short by a clever delivery from Shabnim Ismail. The short ball caught Shafali by surprise, forcing a glove through to wicketkeeper Sinalo Jafta.

Although India raced to 59/2 at the end of the Powerplay, they failed to build on the platform laid by the openers.

Jemimah Rodrigues gifted away her wicket by chipping a return catch to Nadine de Klerk, while Harmanpreet, expected to anchor the innings, saw her stumps disturbed by Ismail. Deepti Sharma's 29 off 21 balls was the only notable contribution from the middle order.

India made one change to the playing XI, handing leg-spinner Prema Rawat her maiden cap after Shreyanka Patil was ruled out of the tournament with an ankle injury. India next face Bangladesh on Thursday.

Brief scores: India 158/7 in 20 overs (Shafali Verma 31, Deepti Sharma 29; Shabnim Ismail 2-28, Marizanne Kapp 2-27) lost to **South Africa: 161/4 in 19.1 overs** (Marizanne Kapp 81 n.o, Tazmin Brits 40; Shree Charani 3-24). **Sri Lanka: 98 all out in 19.4 overs** (Nilakshika Silva 30; Hayley Matthews 3-15, Karishma Ramharack 2-15) lost to **West Indies: 99/5 in 16.1 overs** (Stafanie Taylor 27 n.o; Kavisha Dilhari 2-22).

India win title, secure Pro League return

Auckland: Continuing their impressive run of form, India defeated hosts New Zealand 2-0 in the final to win their second FIH Women's Nations Cup title and secured promotion to the FIH Women's Pro League here on Sunday.

Navneet Kaur (4) gave India the early lead before Sunelita Toppo (15) doubled India's advantage. The team produced a stellar defensive display to protect their lead and win the title,

HOCKEY

which also marked their return to the Pro League next season.

Lalremsiami won the 'Player of the Match' award in the final, while Deepika finished as the joint-top scorer in the tournament with six goals to her name, sharing the honours with USA's Ashley Sessa. This is India's second Nations Cup title, having won the inaugural edition of the tournament in 2022. To recognise the teams' achievements, Hockey India announced a cash award of Rs 3 lakh for each player and Rs 1.5 lakh for each member of the support staff.

JUBILANT: Indian players celebrate

MEN DOWN NETHERLANDS

Indian men's hockey team produced another superb show to notch up a 3-2 win over the Netherlands in their last match of the FIH Pro League Rotterdam leg in Rotterdam on Sunday.

Goals from Jugraj Singh (18), Abhishek (27), and Rajinder Singh (56) helped India secure their second outright victory of the leg against the Dutch side at Hockey Club Rotterdam. PTI

Bumrah returns

Kohli Yet To Clear Fitness Test

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Mumbai: Opener Yashasvi Jaiswal has missed out on India's squad for next month's three-match ODI series in England despite scoring an unbeaten 110 against Afghanistan in the third ODI on Saturday. It was the opener's second century in just six ODIs, but the return of senior batters Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli left no room for him in the 15-man squad.

INDIA SQUAD

Jasprit Bumrah returns to the ODI setup after being rested for the one-off Test, the home ODI series against Afghanistan and the T20I assignments in England and Ireland as part of the BCCI's workload-management plan. The premier pacer replaces Prince Yadav and is set to play his first ODI since the 2023 World Cup final. As reported by TOI on Saturday, Kohli has been named in the squad subject to fitness clearance. Kohli, recovering from the hamstring injury he sustained during Royal Challengers Bengaluru's IPL title-winning campaign, will report to the BCCI's Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru on Monday for a fitness test.

ODI squad for England: Shubman Gill (Captain), Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer (Vice-Captain), KL Rahul (WK), Ishan Kishan (WK), Washington Sundar, Axar Patel, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Prasidh Krishna, Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh, Gurnoor Brar. **Updated squad for Ireland T20Is:** Shreyas Iyer (Captain), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (WK), Ishan Kishan (WK), Shivam Dube, Tilak Varma (Vice-Captain), Nitish Kumar Reddy, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh, Prince Yadav, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Prasidh Krishna.

Sooryavanshi powers India 'A' to title win

Dambulla: Teen sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi saved his best for the final, smashing a breathtaking 29-ball 94 as India 'A' thrashed Sri Lanka 'A' by 66 runs to clinch the Tri-Series title here on Sunday.

The 15-year-old blazed 10 fours and eight sixes in a record 11-ball List A fifty, powering India 'A' to a daunting 377/9 after Sri Lanka 'A' opted to bowl. With a mountain of runs to chase, the hosts never really got going and were bowled out for 311 in 47.1 overs, losing wickets at regular intervals.

There was little resistance in the chase apart from Sadeera Samarawickrama (52) and Wanuja Sahhan who top-scored with a 69-ball 62. For India 'A', new-ball bowler Yash Thakur led the attack with 3/45, while Vipraj Nigam wrapped the tail with 3/60. Sooryavanshi's breathtaking assault had put India 'A' firmly in command early, while Varma later anchored the effort with a 67 off 90 balls. India 'A' were cruising at 209/2 at the halfway mark before Sri Lanka 'A' fought back through their spinners Ravindu Fernando (2/72) and Wanuja Sahan (2/39). India 'A' lost five wickets for 51 runs in the back end before Anukul Roy, at No 9, gave the final flourish (39 off 15b; 1x4, 4x6). **Brief scores: India 'A' 377/9 in 50 overs** (Vaibhav Sooryavanshi 94, Tilak Varma 67; Wanuja Sahan 2-39, Ravindu Fernando 2-72) bt **Sri Lanka 'A': 311 all out in 47.1 overs** (Sadeera Samarawickrama 52, Wanuja Sahhan 62; Yash Thakur 3/45, Vipraj Nigam 3/60). PTI

TRI-SERIES

Karnataka retain overall crown

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Karnataka emerged as the overall champions as Nina Venkatesh stole the limelight on the final day with a golden double at the Senior National Aquatics Championship in Ahmedabad.

On Sunday, the state swimmers bagged nine medals, including two gold, three silver, and four bronze medals. With a total of 47 medals, Karnataka topped the charts for a record 33rd time on the trot,

SWIMMING

while Maharashtra finished a distant second with 16 medals.

On the final day of the competition, Nina rewrote the women's 50m butterfly meet record with a gold medal-winning timing of 27.67 seconds. Nina held the previous meet record of 27.74 set at the 2023 nationals in Hyderabad. Tanishi Gupta made it a 1-2 finish for Karnataka, finishing a close second with a time of 27.69.

ALL SMILES: Karnataka signed off with a total of 47 medals

Karnataka's second gold came from the women's 4x100m medley team. The quartet of Nina, S Lakshya, Tanishi, and Dhinidhi Desinghu erased the national record set by Maharashtra (4:23.65) in the 2023 edition. Karnataka finished on top with a time of 4:18.72.

Results (Karnataka only): Women: 50m Butterfly: 1. Nina Venkatesh (27.67, NMR), 2. Tanishi Gupta (27.69); **800m Freestyle:** 3. Sri Charani Tumu (9:17.13); **4x100m Medley:** Karnataka (Nina Venkatesh, S Lakshya, Tanishi Gupta, Dhinidhi Desinghu, 4:18.72, NMR). **Men: 50m Breaststroke:** 3. Vidhith S Shankar (28.80); **200m Backstroke:** 3. Akash Mani (2:05.18); **400m Freestyle:** 2. Aneesh S Gowda (3:57.41), 3. Dhakshan S (3:57.70); **200m Butterfly:** 2. Dharshan S (2:03.00). **Awards: Team Championship: Men:** Karnataka (164pts); **Women:** Karnataka (170pts); **Overall:** Karnataka (334pts).

Blasters prevail

Bengaluru: Bengaluru Blasters registered their second straight victory in the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 tournament in Mysuru on Sunday. They claimed a 16-run win over Shivamogga Yodhas via VJD method in a rain-interrupted contest. Asked to bat, Blasters southpaws Rohan Patil (51, 23b, 1x4, 5x6) and KL Shrijith (47, 25b, 4x4, 2x6) powered their team to 124/1 in 10 overs. In reply, Yodhas were restricted to 119/7.

Earlier, the match between Coastal Kings Mangaluru and Hubli Tigers was abandoned without a ball being bowled due to rain. **Brief scores: Bengaluru Blasters 124/1 in 10 overs** (Rohan Patil 51 n.o, Krishnan Shrijith 47 n.o) bt **Shivamogga Yodhas 119/7 in 10 overs** (Pravin Dubey 2-24, Shubhang Hegde 2-9, Shreevathsa Acharya 2-34). TNN

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AITA in a legal spot

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Pune: The interim executive committee of the All India Tennis Association (AITA) seems to have tied itself in a legal tangle, and in danger of being dissolved, after refusing to cooperate with the Administrator appointed by the Delhi High Court in April.

TENNIS

While the interim committee, headed by president Chintan Parikh (Gujarat association) and Sunder Iyer (Maharashtra) welcomed the HC order initially, they subsequently filed an appeal, the grounds of which is not fully known. But a letter written by the Administrator, Justice (Retd.) Gitta Mittal, to the interim committee and the state associations makes it clear that Parikh and Co "have to render any assistance or cooperation" in fulfilling the HC's mandate of amending the bylaws and constitution of the AITA and bringing them in line with the National Sports Act.

As per the letter dated June 17, seen by TOI, during a meeting on May 1, Mittal had asked the interim committee to scrutinize the byelaws of the AITA and revert within one week the details of the amendments necessary to make it Code compliant. However, "no submission was received to assist the Administrator in compliance with the directions" of the HC, the letter states.

TANISHKA SWEEPS STATE MEET

Bengaluru: Tanishka Kalabhairav signed off with an all-win record as she eased to a 12-10, 11-8, 11-3 win over Mihika Udupa in the girls' U-15 final of the State ranking table tennis tournament in Mysuru on Sunday. With the win, she won four of the five gold medals in the women's category. **Results: U-15: Boys: Final:** Shriram Kiran bt Satwik M 11-9, 10-12, 12-10, 11-9; **Semis:** Shriram bt Siddhanth M 11-5, 5-11, 11-13, 11-6, 14-12; Satwik bt Arnav Mithun 11-8, 11-9, 11-5. **Girls: Final:** Tanishka Kalabhairav bt Mihika Udupa 12-10, 11-8, 11-3; **Semis:** Tanishka bt Sakshya Santhosh 17-15, 11-7, 12-10; Mihika Udupa bt Yukta Harsha 11-8, 11-5, 11-9. **U-13: Boys: Final:** Suchet Dharennavar bt Sharvil Karambelkar 11-8, 11-7, 11-3; **Semis:** Sharvil bt Arnav Mithun 11-4, 6-11, 11-9, 13-11; Suchet bt Ankush Baliga 9-11, 13-11, 11-7, 11-8. **Girls: Final:** Sakshya Santhosh bt Vibha Tavakari 11-8, 11-7, 6-11, 6-11, 11-6; Semis: Sakshya bt Dhanwita Pattankudi 11-8, 13-11, 8-11, 13-11.

LOCAL ROUND-UP

Kickstart vs HAL in final: Kickstart FC and HAL FC entered the final of the U-20 YPL in Bengaluru on Sunday. **Results: Semis:** Kickstart FC 1 bt South United FC 0; HAL SC 1 (3) bt Roots FC via tie breaker 1 (2).

Ronaldo FC in final: Ronaldo FC edged past Raman Sports FA 1-0 to enter the North Zone final of the KSFA 'C' Division League football championship in Bengaluru on Sunday. **Results: Semifinals: NZ:** Ronaldo FC Bangalore 1 bt Raman Sports FA 0; Alchemy Intl FA 3 bt Play 365 0; **SZ:** Bangalore Champs Academy 3 bt Blues FA 0; Blues Star FC 1 bt BM FC 0. TNN

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What's 'green whistle' in World Cup that's making viewers curious?

Portable device used by Canadian footballer is a pain relief inhaler

Jahnavi@timesofindia.com

As injured Canadian midfielder Ismaël Koné was stretchered off the FIFA World Cup field during Thursday's match with Qatar, he puffed on a green tube that caught everyone's attention. That was Penthrox, popularly known as the green whistle, an inhaler designed to provide rapid pain relief during injury. It's become a mainstay in emergency medicine and sports care in many countries.

It's portable and contains methoxyflurane, a fast-acting, non-opioid analgesic. The disposable, patient-controlled inhaler is primarily used in trauma and emergency settings. Each inhaler contains 3 ml of methoxyflurane and can provide pain relief within 4-6 minutes, with effects lasting for up to an hour when inhaled off-and-on. "The green whistle is a time-buying device, its biggest advantage being rapid onset of action," says Dr Firozahmad H Torgal, additional director-emergency medicine at Fortis Hospital, Bengaluru. "While intravenous pain-relief drugs might take up to 30 seconds or a minute to take effect, pain relief with methoxyflurane can begin from the first few inhalations itself."

Many elite sports teams prefer the green whistle as it provides immediate, needle-free pain relief for conscious athletes with acute traumatic injuries such as suspected fractures, joint dislocations and severe soft-tissue injuries. Lightweight and self-administered under medical supervision, it's a practical tool to use during on-field assessment and while transporting an injured athlete. Methoxyflurane is used in sub-anaesthetic doses, allowing athletes to remain awake and cooperative for examination while reducing pain.

Pic: Reuters

Ismaël Koné

"Koné sustained a tibia injury. It's a grievous injury as the tibia is the primary weight-bearing bone of the leg," points out Dr Chirag Thonse, consultant orthopedics and sports surgeon at Manipal Hospital. During such injuries, the player needs instant pain relief until they can be moved for further treatment. "The green whistle ensures the player does not collapse from pain, especially as they are already exhausted and dehydrated from the sport and there may also be blood loss associated with the fracture," he says.

Since it's inhaled, methoxyflurane gets rapidly absorbed through the lungs into the bloodstream, giving pain relief in minutes. It is believed to act on the central nervous system, influencing receptors and ion channels involved in pain signalling. At low doses used for pain relief, it reduces pain without inducing general anaesthesia, allowing patients to remain awake and responsive.

Doctors, however, caution that it should only be used for short-term pain relief under medical supervision. "If the patient uses it without a prescription, there is a risk of overdosing," Dr Torgal warns, saying patients with kidney or liver ailments should not ideally use it. Doctors also caution about possible side effects such as drowsiness, dizziness, nausea, and vomiting.

The green whistle has not been approved for routine clinical use in India by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO). However, it may be imported through specialised distributors under strict regulatory provisions for specific medical emergencies. "It's mostly used in Australia and Canada, particularly in contact sports. Immediate pain relief helps medical teams assess the extent of injury and see whether the athlete needs further treatment or can safely return to play," says kinesiologist Badarinath Rao.

The green whistle's use during Koné's leg injury has sparked wider conversations about pain management in sport and how different countries respond to acute injuries on the field.

TOI HEALTH+

WHAT'S INSIDE THE PUFF?

- Penthrox, an inhaler, is portable & disposable. Each tube contains 3 ml of methoxyflurane, a non-opioid analgesic
- Commonly used in trauma, emergency medicine & sports injuries
- Approved in Australia, UK, many European countries. **Not yet approved for clinical use in India**

Image: AI

HOW IT WORKS

- Patient inhales methoxyflurane through mouthpiece
- Drug gets absorbed through lungs and acts on central nervous system, reducing pain perception
- Pain relief begins in about 4–6 minutes
- Effects can last up to an hour, with intermittent inhalation

Pvt hosps get 60% of patients but have little research output

Those Without Colleges Publish Less Than 10 Papers/Yr: Study

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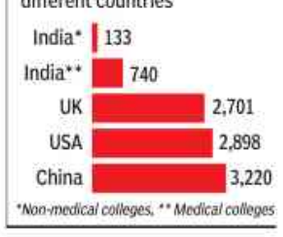
Private hospitals in India have negligible research output though they deal with 60% of patients. A study of research at Indian hospitals during the 5-year period from January 2021 to December 2025 also found that nearly all hospitals without medical colleges produced fewer than 10 publications annually.

The study published in the latest issue of the Journal of Medical Evidence of the BMJ (British Medical Journal) group looked at the number of publications included in Scopus, PubMed and Google Scholar.

In the period studied, the average number of publications by the top 50 private hospitals in India without medical colleges attached was 242. In the same period, the average number of publications by the top 50 Indian hospitals with medical colleges was 1,530.

PUBLICATION COUNT

Average number of publications per year from the top 10 medical institutions in different countries



*Non-medical colleges, ** Medical colleges

The latter list was topped by AIIMS, Delhi (6,932) and CMC, Vellore (5,333).

In comparison, the average research output of the top 10 medical colleges in China was over 16,000 with Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine and Peking University Health Science Centre topping the list; in the US, the average was almost 14,500, with Harvard and Johns Hopkins topping the list, and in the UK it was 13,500 with University of Oxford Medical Sciences Division and University College, London Medical School topping the list.

Mayo Clinic in the US produces 8,000 papers annually, which is more than the entire Indian private sector. Indian healthcare is now dominated by private hospitals many of which are controlled by large corporate houses whose main purpose is making a profit for its shareholders, so education and research is not a priority, observed the study.

"This study confirms that in spite of their dealing with most of the population, doctors in private hospitals in India do little research. There is a neglect of the enormous data that can be accessed from Indian patients going to the majority of Indian hospitals. This may be due to lack of incentive, absence of electronic hardware or priorities which are mainly commercial," stated the study.

According to the study, there were 49,000 Indian medical institutions of which 800 were attached to medical colleges. Although India is fourth in the world in the quantity of research publications after the US, China and UK, its quality, as assessed by the number of citations it receives, drops it down to ninth. This means that the papers are not referred to and do not make a major impact on the world stage, stated the study conducted by Dr Samiran Nundy and Dr Parmanand Tiwari from Delhi's Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

Research and publication are among the major hallmarks of good medical institutions and there is evidence that those which produce high quality research also provide better patient care. "The quality and quantity of research output is also a major factor in ranking medical institutions all over the world including the well-known US News and World Report as well as the National Institute Ranking Framework of India," pointed out the study.

Delay in appt letters releases docs from service bonds: HC

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Raipur: The Chhattisgarh high court has ruled that MBBS service bonds stand automatically cancelled if the state govt fails to issue appointment orders within the period prescribed under the Chhattisgarh Medical, Dental and Physiotherapy Undergraduate Admission Rules, 2025.

The petitioners had challenged the state govt's refusal to issue no-objection certificates (NOCs) after the state govt failed to issue appointment orders within the six-month period stipulated under section 10(6) of the 2025 Rules.

They argued that the statutory provisions clearly provide for automatic cancellation of the service bond if appointment orders are not issued within the prescribed timeline.

Justice Amitendra Kishore Prasad delivered the judgment on June 18 on a petition filed by MBBS graduates Niteen Kumar Singh, Sahil Kari, Chandra Prakash Ravi and Sakshi Kanwar, who had completed their MBBS course from the Chhattisgarh Institute of Medical Sciences, Bilaspur, and successfully finished their compulsory rotating internship in 2025.

HC directed the state authorities to issue NOCs to the petitioners without insisting upon payment of any bond amount or penalty

The state govt opposed the petition, contending that the petitioners were bound by the service bonds executed at the time of admission and were liable to serve in govt healthcare institutions. It was further argued that the petitioners had participated in the counselling process and appointment orders had subsequently been issued.

After hearing all parties, the high court held that section 10(6) of the 2025 Rules is clear and unambiguous. HC observed that the provision requires the state to issue appointment orders within six months of completion of the MBBS course and internship, failing which the bond "shall be deemed to be automatically cancelled".

Consequently, the court held that the counselling process and appointment orders issued on Dec 24, 2025, were unenforceable.

Rejecting the state's argument on counselling, the Chhattisgarh high court held that taking part in a delayed counselling process could not defeat a statutory right that had already accrued to the petitioners.

The court further held that the petitioners could not be compelled either to join the postings offered by the state or to deposit the bond amount of Rs 25 lakh in the case of unreserved candidates and Rs 20 lakh in the case of reserved candidates. The insistence on recovery of the bond amount was found to be contrary to the statutory framework.

Allowing the writ petition, the high court directed the state authorities to issue NOCs to the petitioners without insisting upon payment of any bond amount or penalty. The high court also directed Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Memorial Health Sciences and Ayush University to confer MBBS degrees upon the petitioners, if not already conferred, in accordance with law.

Doc not opting for alternative method isn't negligence: HC

Kolkata: The Calcutta HC has held that a doctor cannot be held liable for medical negligence merely because an alternative or better treatment method was available. It quashed a criminal case against a gynaecologist from Alipore's Woodland Multi-Speciality Hospital, reports **Srishti Lakhotia**.

The father of a newborn had filed a case at Alipore police station against Dr Parvinder Kaur and Dr Shantanu Roy on March 12, 2016, alleging that a "minor cut" was found on the baby's head after a C-section delivery on March 11.

The doctors had informed him that a stitch would heal the wound. However, the father alleged medical negligence citing an earlier experience in which his elder daughter, born at the same hospital and under the same doctors, had suffered a similar cut that later resulted in a hairless spot.

Justice Chaitali Chatterjee reiterated, "To prosecute a medical professional for negligence, it must be shown that the risk taken by the accused doctor must be of such a nature that the resulting injury was imminently likely." In this case, the judge held that there was "no rashness."